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Celestial choirs, from courts above,
Shed sacred glories there ;

And angels, with their sparkling lyres,
Make music on the air.



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Notes of Joy.

Hark! hark! the notes of joy
Roll o'er the heavenly plains,
And seraphs find employ
For their sublimest strains;
Some new delight in heaven is known,
Loud sound the harps around the throne.

Hark! hark! the sounds draw nigh.
The joyful hosts descend;
Jesus forsakes the sky,
To earth his footsteps bend.
He comes to bless our fallen race;
He comes with messages of grace.

Bear, bear the tidings round;
Let every mortal know
What love in God is found,
What pity he can show.
Ye winds that blow! ye waves that roll!
Bear the glad news from pole to pole!

—Selected.

EARLY WOMEN MARTYRS.

BY MISS FRANCES J. DYER.

FROM that April day in the spring of 29 when Mary, the mother of our Lord, suffered martyrdom of soul in the crucifixion of her Son, to that sad summer of 1900, when Mary Morrill, with hundreds of others, laid down their lives for Christ in China, the pages of history have been starred with the names of devoted women martyrs. The persecuting spirit was specially rife during the infancy of the Christian Church. Perhaps she needed the winnowing influences of trial at the outset in order to sift out the weak and the worldly, and fit her for a world-wide mission.

One of the most violent outbreaks of popular fury against the early Christians was at Lyons, in the year 177, during the reign of the wise and humane Marcus Aurelius. It seems incredible that a ruler who wrote "The Meditations," one of the most beautiful treatises on morals ever composed by man, should have sanctioned the slaughter of men and women whose lives best exemplified his own lofty teachings. But we must discriminate between persecuting emperors and emperors in whose reign persecutions took place. Only five have the unenviable reputation of personally setting on foot direct attacks upon the Christians. The others simply permitted such attacks.

Doubtless it was impossible for Marcus Aurelius to see the Christians except through a mist of prejudices. They were everywhere misunderstood and misrepresented. They did not attend popular amusements, the theater, the arena, the circus. This aversion to participate in the fashionable way of passing time would brand them as unsocial and misanthropic. Their social theories, too, were alarming. Their boundless charity savored of communism. Slaves were treated as equals in the sight of God, and admitted to similar privileges in the new and secret brotherhood. The very purity of their worship awakened suspicion. The secrecy with which they observed the Eucharist created a belief that it was an impure orgy. To the pagan mind the absence of visible objects of worship was proof that their religious rites were too abominable to bear the light of day. They were credited, as they are to-day in certain parts of the world, with infanticide and magical practices. Occasionally Christian slaves, frantic through fear of torture, made false statements of this kind concerning their masters.

On the other hand, some of the most shining examples of heroism and fidelity to the faith were found in the ranks of slavery. One such was a poor girl named Blandina. With her mistress and several other believers

she was thrown into prison. Those who survived were afterwards cast to the wild beasts in the amphitheater. During imprisonment an appeal for mercy was sent to the amiable Marcus Aurelius. While awaiting his reply the convicts were not idle. Many beautiful incidents are recorded of the way they prayed for their enemies, and heartened the few who were ready to recant. The answer came, and the imperial edict ordered the death of all who would not renounce their faith. Think of a man issuing such a decree, and on the evening of the same day, perhaps, writing in his diary sentiments of morality as noble as some in the New Testament itself!

To add to their sufferings the prisoners were kept till the time of the grand annual fair in Lyons, which was also the date of a festival for the worship of Augustus. Multitudes assembled from afar, and the death of the Christians was made the chief spectacle of the holiday. Blandina and Ponticus, a boy of fifteen, were singled out for special cruelty. They were reserved for the last day of the gladiatorial shows, and thus compelled to see the agony of their companions. The boy died while witnessing the awful tragedy. Blandina was hung on a gibbet to be attacked by wild beasts. With arms outstretched in the form of a cross, she appeared as a living symbol of the crucified Lord. The beasts, gorged with blood, refused to touch her, so she was remanded to prison to await further tortures too horrible to record.

Savage hostility extended even to the mangled remains of the martyrs, which were burned to ashes and cast into the Rhone, even as the remains of Wickliffe were exhumed, burned and cast into the Swift by the Council of Constance a thousand years later. How futile have proved all such efforts to check the spread of the gospel!

Early in the next century, during the reign of Severus, another slave and her patrician mistress met with a similar fate in the ancient city of Carthage. What a multitude of images crowd the mind at the mention of that name! We think of queenly Dido and her melancholy death; of Virgil's immortal verse; of Hannibal and the Punic wars; of Augustine, who owed so much to its schools. We picture a city rich in paintings and sculpture, in literature and libraries, yet rotten with vice. The sails of its commerce whitened every sea. Ezekiel's description of a Tyrian galley having cedars from Lebanon for masts, "thy benches of ivory, fine linen with brodered work of Egypt thy sail," applies equally well to a Carthage craft. In this beautiful and wicked city, amid shameless scenes of rioting and pleasure, lived a small body of Christians, whose singular purity of life and air of other-worldliness could not fail to attract attention.

Just how Christianity reached Africa is not certainly known. It is supposed to have been carried there about the end of the first century, when the



THE LAST PRAYER. BY JEROME.

disciples "went everywhere preaching the word." In this distant province, as elsewhere, the new doctrine spread with surprising rapidity from slaves to first citizens. Alarmed by its success, the emperor gave orders for the arrest of its adherents. Among the first to be seized were Perpetua, a young Roman matron, only twenty-two years old, and an attendant named Felicitas. Perpetua was the best-loved child of her old pagan father, and he made repeated but unavailing efforts to shake her constancy. As a last appeal he appeared at the trial, holding up her infant son, and implored her to think of her mother and her baby. Still she remained firm. Astonished and angry the judge cried out, "What! will neither the gray hairs of a father nor the innocence of a child move you?" From her point of view recantation was impossible. "Do you see this vessel?" she asked. "It is a pitcher. Can you call it anything else? I am a Christian."

As with Blandina, the final torture was preceded by a period of time in prison; and we know what frightful places those Roman dungeons were. Some who read these lines have crawled into the Mamertine prison in Rome, where Paul was incarcerated, and have a faint idea of what those underground places are like. The jailers were often bribed to let the poor victims out, and the deacons of the little church in Carthage raised the requisite sum to release Perpetua and Felicitas. When transferred to better quarters they had liberty to converse with friends, and when allowed to nurse her child the mother's joy knew no bounds.

But the fatal day came when they, with four men, were marched to the arena. They exchanged the kiss of peace; then the men were thrown to lions, bears and leopards, the women to infuriated cows. At the height of her agony Perpetua rose and went to pick up her fellow-sufferer, the slave girl Felicitas. This touching act of thoughtfulness, and her calm dignity, awed for a moment the brutal spectators. So insensible did she seem to bodily pain that she asked when the beasts would be let loose upon her, and could hardly be persuaded that this part of her martyrdom was over. Finally she was struck in the ribs by a clumsy gladiator, and with her own hand she directed the point of the sword to her throat. May it not be that he was overpowered by the majesty of her presence, and so his hands faltered in the bloody deed?

Of all the histories of martyrdom this story of Perpetua is one of the most precious and authentic. It stands out conspicuous from the fact that she herself wrote the greater part of the account, and it was continued by eye-witnesses. Later it was recorded in the book known as the Acts of Martyrs, from which both Tertullian and Augustine quote. It is full of exquisite touches of nature, and breathes an air of truth and reality. These two

women have always held a place of honor in the *cultus* of Western Christendom. A church in Carthage was dedicated to their memory, and Leo XIII., in the bull *Materna Ecclesiæ*, refers in glowing terms to these "brightest glories of the African church."

Does some one ask why, after seventeen centuries, we rehearse these harrowing tales? In the hope that something of the balm and spikenard and frankincense of their consecrated lives may drop its sweetness into the heated, artificial atmosphere of our own time. Oh for the courage and constancy of those earlier days! No mention has been made of Perpetua's visions, although they occupy large space in the narrative, for we are prone to discount such things as the product of a diseased imagination or overstrained nerves. Yet the history of religious experience shows that souls who live close to God have seasons of great spiritual exaltation akin to Jacob at Bethel; to Paul when caught up to the third heaven; to St. Anthony in his cell at Padua; to Lady Henry Somerset poring over John's Gospel in the Reigate priory; to Geraldine Taylor alone in the little whitewashed room in a Chinese village; to Perpetua in the amphitheater; to the Christians who faced the human beasts in the late Boxer uprising. Would that we Christian women of America could have visions! Would that we could be transported above our worldliness by the power of fresh revelations of Christ and the glory of his kingdom!

"They climbed the steep ascent of heaven,
Through peril, toil and pain;
O God! to us may grace be given
To follow in their train!"

"It is our maxim that we can suffer harm from none, unless we can be convicted as doers of evil or proved to be wicked. You may indeed slay us, but hurt us you cannot. But lest any should say that this is a senseless and rash assertion, I entreat that the charges against us may be examined; and if they be substantiated, let us be punished as is right. But if no man can convict us of any crime, true reason does not allow you through a wicked report to wrong the innocent, or rather yourselves, who are disposed to direct affairs, not by judgment but by passion."—*From Justin Martyr's Appeal to the Emperor, in the reign of Antoninus Pius, 138-161.*



EXICO.

LA NOCHE BUENA IN GUADALAJARA.

BY MRS. SARA B. HOWLAND.

WE did not have to invent a new word in Spanish to express the Christmas feeling, for it was said long ago. Christmas Eve is the "Good Night" of all the year,—the blessed night when the star shone over the silent fields and the angels sang as the Christ-child came to earth. It is pleasant to find that our Romanist neighbors and ourselves can have one point of contact; for however sadly we differ in the application of Christ's principles to the daily life, we all unite in the worship of the Babe in the Manger, to bring our gifts to lay before him.

and we love

When the days are passing a withered her customs to begin to out our clip-write and get during the ask every-bags for the tion abroad

had once such a beautiful Gift that we have stayed glad ever since, and we long to have the chance to give something our own selves.

rains are over, and the radiant October away, and now and then a red leaf and bough show that Nature does not quite forget even in the summer land, we say, "It is time get ready for the *Noche Buena*." So we get pings, and look over our best "recitations," and all the new songs that anybody has translated year, and we send home for cards and calendars, and body to save us pieces of their new dresses to make tree, and there is a delightful undercurrent of prepara- in the air, and everybody knows that it is because we

So the weeks fly by, and we rehearse and practice and sew and have committee meetings, just as people do all over the world wherever the Christmas Star has shone; and then the days get a little shorter, and the air

is quite crisp, and on a very cold morning, maybe, there will be a tiny film of frost on the banana leaves in the patio, to show us that it is really Christmas weather. This little shimmer of ice will create as great a sensation in Mexico as to be buried in a snowdrift in New England; and well it may when one has no fire but the sun, and it cannot always reach into the dark patios and corrals of the city.

Christmas weather in Guadalajara means great bunches of violets, too,—purple beauties and double white ones,—and roses galore, and the great red Christmas flower, so suitable for decoration. Shakespeare said that he should never think of desiring a rose at Christmas, but that was on the good old English principle of being satisfied with one's circumstances, and the same reasoning would make us rejoice in the lovely blossoms. Suppose that Mrs. Missionary hasn't much money for Christmas presents, but sends a delicious bunch of yellow roses, and receives in return a handful of exquisite pink ones from her likewise impecunious friend? Isn't there more satisfaction in this than in exchanging the notebook and the brass candlestick like Elizabeth in her German garden? She would better have sent a box of those roses.

We always send to the gardens for cedar boughs for making festoons, because of their spicy odor; but we never have had a whole cedar Christmas tree, for that would be too great an extravagance, like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Sometimes we have a fresh *zapote*, cut that morning, and sometimes a kind railroad conductor has brought us in a pine from the woods,—with a few bunches of pine needles here and there on the limbs,—prickly and scraggly, but hailed with joy as a true Christmas tree.

The city is full of noise and bustle as the important day draws near. There are plenty of brilliant shops, with hats and gowns from Paris, and toys from Germany, Japanese umbrellas and teapots, and American shoes and cranberries and red apples. There are tables set about in the *portales*, or "arcades," where most of the stores are, and crowds of people jostle one another day and night, as in our Northern cities. Figures of the Christ-child in wax and sugar are everywhere, and a favorite gift is a *nacimiento*, or scene, representing the Child in the manger, made of wax or wood or pasteboard. In many of the wealthy homes an altar is arranged with the Child asleep, and figures of cattle, trees, and shrubs grouped about to make a pastoral scene. Then they have their *posadas*, a series of songs where the singers go from room to room, knocking and asking if the Holy Child is within, finally entering and joining in a joyous chorus. In the villages there are often choruses of men, dressed as shepherds, who go singing from door to door,—like the waits of olden time,—and a sort of Pastoral Play is

frequently represented in a rough way. The churches are always brilliantly lighted at this season, and crowds attend the special masses, particularly the one on Christmas Eve, called the Mass of the Cock,—*La Misa del Gallo*.

Rome provides brilliant spectacles for her children, but there is very little of the true Christmas spirit of giving to those who most need help. It suits her purpose to have elegant churches, with thousands of candles and electric lights, wonderful music, and clouds of incense and elegantly robed priests and bishops and acolytes—anything to strike the senses and make these poor people respect the pomp and power of the church; but it cares not for their miserable lives, darkened with want and sin and suffering.

It is for the evangelical Christian to come in and show how the Christmas joy can be made to last the long year, and how the peace and good will that came with the Christ-child are for all who would share it. For the devoted adherents of the church, Christmas too often ends with money spent in wine and balls, clothing in the pawn shop, the father—and too often the mother—in jail, while the poor children are thrust into the street, where they beg or starve until the fine is paid or the thirty days of prison over.

Yet here and there one might see a brighter picture—that of some humble home adorned with cards and simple pictures of Jesus and his disciples, where the music is of children's voices singing of the love of the Saviour, and where the parents do not throw away their money in dissipation, but joyfully give of their small wages to help provide for their Sunday-school tree, or even to support a little orphan in India. The dear old, new gospel always carries hope and ambition with it, and it does our hearts good to see these signs of progress from day to day.

The feasts of the Good Night are many and varied among the Protestant community of our large city. The Germans are great lovers of Christmas, and every family has its little tree, which is lighted every night from December 25th until New Year's, when the candies and decorations are distributed among the children. The American colony has a royal good time always, with an elegant tree, most elaborate decorations, and expensive gifts. There are many strangers visiting in the city at this time, and large amounts are subscribed to make the foreign children happy at the holidays. The American Sunday school also finds many kind friends, and the little ones are gladdened with all the dear accompaniments of Christmas.

Often the teachers have provided an extra treat for the school-children, and none was more heartily enjoyed than that of a great Christmas pie, filled with little gifts in a delectable sawdust filling, and surmounted by a marvelous crust of tissue paper with crinkles of an elaborate description.

The rapture of the children upon beholding this work of art was refreshing to see, and even the visit of Mrs. Santa Claus did not awaken as much enthusiasm.

You must know that we could not allow a masculine Santa Claus in our highly respectable Girls' Boarding School, so one of the Mexican teachers kindly consented to assume the rôle of Mrs. Santa, who came to officiate in the absence of her husband. Doña Paula was round and portly, and her teeth of orange peel and her large cap completely transformed her into as delightful a Mrs. Santa Claus as one could ever see. She carried a large sack, from which she produced treasures new and beautiful to the eyes of the assembled girls, including a number of outside children who would not have been allowed to join in the exercises in the church.

After all, Christmas is just the same in the summer lands and in the frozen regions and among dark or fair-haired little ones. Let us all take our share of the light of the Guiding Star, and may it lead us all onward until all the "Good Nights" have ended in one perfect day.

INDIA.

CHRISTMAS UNDER THE BANYAN TREES.

BY MRS. W. O. BALLANTINE.

It was Christmas Eve in India at least ten hours before the twilight fell upon the Christmas trees of America. There, that very day, the tents in the distant village camp had been folded, and the family that lived in the bungalow had reached home only in time to prepare for the night. But you must not think that the Christmas tree was forgotten. We had gone out with a lantern after the five "bābās" were asleep, and sacrificed the only available bush in the compound. The little gifts were hung, and the tiny candles all in place for lighting, for Christmas day begins early at the bungalow.

The clock had struck five, but it was still quite dark when Christmas carols began. In a foreign tongue the sweet praise of children went up to the Child whose birthday it was:—

Christā jug-ē ārlā
Bā-lā-kā tō zhalā.



BRAHMA.





OFFERING CHILDREN TO DR. BALLANTINE.

Verse after verse, with all of Oriental patience and politeness, the singing went on, until we came to the door to thank the school-children and to wish them all a Merry Christmas.

By this time the "bābās" were ready for their tree, and just as they went into one door Santa Claus came bounding in at the other, looking as if he had just come from a snowdrift, though there were none nearer than the Himalaya Mountains. We could hear the bells of the reindeer, and Santa's long white hair and beard (which looked very much like aloe fibre) shook as he hurried about till the baby hid his face in Ayah's lap and refused to look up.

The pretty books and playthings were distributed with much fun and laughter, the lace bags were quickly lightened of their contents, and by breakfast time the delightful newness was worn off, and eager little hands wanted to do "something else."

The five-year old began it by getting lost. This was not unusual in itself, for he often suddenly disappeared and came to light again. The search began. Jeywant went into the garden where the tall grass grows, and where the cobra hides, then into the orange grove. Ayah went to the native houses near by; his father sent someone to the compound gate to look up and down the "great road," and mother went to the well; there was the water forty feet below, all black and quiet except for the white doves cooing inside. No one was there, and she went beyond to the beginning of a tamarind walk. There at a short distance sat the little boy on the grassy bank of the water-course, with his feet in it, leaning over and holding lovingly with both hands the stump of the Christmas bush which had made all so happy in the morning. "I want a Christmas tree all over again, mother; let us make a tree for all the boys and girls!" "There are more than a hundred of them; how could we do it?" "O, I know we can, we will all help. You may have my rupee to get them candy." With this promise of such substantial help from five children, the eldest only ten, and a whole rupee to begin with, how could I refuse?

We went to work; the teachers sent in the names of the children by classes, and we opened the drawer in which we keep things which are to be given away. In a few minutes little hands were sewing up bright bags for marbles, the stitches just short enough to prevent the marbles falling through. Knives, pencils, paper, little books, cakes of soap, tiny boxes with mirror covers, combs, a few dollies; the getting things together went steadily on.

"The Christmas" was to be under the wide-spreading banyan trees of the compound, and the school-children marched to music and were seated on rugs laid over the warm gravel. Tables loaded with trays of native



AFTER TWO MONTHS IN DR. BALLANTINE'S SCHOOL.

sweets (a white candy like peppermints, and as big as cookies), and presents for each in a class alike. Under the tables were baskets of oranges full of the year's sweet sunshine. The organ was on one side, and the "bābā lōk" in their best attire had their little chairs out in a row. Every school-girl was dressed in a new bright garment, and every boy in a white suit of cotton cloth, all in native style. The larger children, both boys and girls, had sewed their own clothes, and had helped about those of the little children. These had been prepared weeks beforehand, and given out for this occasion.

The music played and songs were sung; then there were speeches by the pastor and others,—not too long, happily,—and then the distribution began.

How little bright eyes smiled into her own face as she looked for the first time into a mirrored box! How the wee boys shook their red bags, and longed to get the marbles out and lose them! How sweetly or shyly all looked up into our faces and said, "Salaam—Peace be to you," as they passed along! Every child of all that hundred had a gift besides "just clothes," and plenty of candy and an orange as well.

Some of these dear little ones only a few short months before had been "hungry and thirsty and a stranger and naked"; picked up by the roadside; brought with a mother's last strength and courage and left at the mission; some unable to stand upright, or to hear distinctly when spoken to. One ran and hid when, after being with us a few months, her mother came in sight, fearing to pass through again horrors of hunger and want beyond telling. One little fellow used to come to us with such a pitiful look, saying, "Will you not love me?" Children so grateful and loving and unselfish we have not known in the ordinary walks of India life as these little ones who have suffered the lack of all things.

Just as all was over and the last of the children were leaving the compound, one of the village masters with his twenty school-children, whom, by the way, he teaches under a tree, came in. These little folks had walked five miles with the hope, perhaps, of sharing the Christmas cheer of the bungalow, and must not be sent away disappointed. So twenty packages were quickly made up, each containing a piece of new bright cloth and some crumbs of candy. With this in one hand and an orange in the other they started homeward, lest night should overtake them. After this two other schools appeared, and we had to send them off with their teachers, giving them a little money to get themselves a treat of parched rice and fruit as they passed through the town.

Plenty of people about us were still left who longed for a little Christmas cheer. There were the good Bible women; we had some books for them.

Laborers, the washerman and cook and driver, gardener and sweeper, and last of all, the Brahman postman—I beg his pardon for putting his name next to the sweeper—came with evident expectation. Still the gifts, small as they were, often only a pretty card, held out, and all seemed happy.

Last week this item appeared in one of our city papers: "It will give the many friends who contributed to the box sent out to India a few months ago great pleasure to learn that it reached its destination on August 21. It contained five hundred yards of new gingham and many articles of use such as pencils, towels, needle-cases and toys."

We thought of the joy and gladness that some little ones in the far East will have when another Christmas comes around—dear children, to many of whom has come such suffering in the past. We can see how they will look up with a smile and such gentle surprise that they should have such nice gifts on "Jesus baby's" happy birthday.



THE BUNGALOW.

EUROPEAN TURKEY.

WOMAN'S EVANGELISTIC WORK IN MACEDONIA.

BY MISS ELLEN M. STONE.

(From the Annual Report of the Mission.)

A FRIEND in New England wrote a few weeks ago: "In our monthly missionary meetings there is often a special prayer that God will open many ways to you, and that you may not faint and grow weary." So abundantly has God granted this petition, that we have been almost compelled to ask him to stay his hand unless he will give us more consecrated souls to enter the doors. In every place which we have visited during the nearly one hundred and forty days of touring there has been the eager plea

for a longer stay, that we might enter more homes. At last the walls of opposition, which for two years prevented us from reaching even one woman in Mitrovitsa, have fallen; and during our third yearly visit last spring we had invitations to five homes, and the opportunity to meet many women. To our few brethren there had been given a spirit of supplication for the women of their families; and the news that quickly followed us to Salonica was fully expected,—that Mary, the tailor's wife, had returned to him with two of their children, their only boy having died during the months while she abandoned her husband and his home because he had become a Protestant. We expect to hear, too, of the return to his family of his apprentice, who is bearing expulsion from his father's house in the same city because he would not confess to the priest (Roman Catholic). The reception of these two brethren to the little evangelical community of Prishtnia, made them pray even more earnestly for the unbelieving wife and parents. Now they rejoice with us, as our tailor writes that his wife eagerly listens to his reading of the Bible at family prayers. Ah! his labors were not for nought when two of us visited Mitrovitsa last March; although he waited in vain for his wife to invite us to see her, yet with a "heart at leisure from itself," he led the informal service of song and prayer at our room in the khan two evenings, with about a dozen at each service.

Last autumn our beloved Mrs. Kerefinka Oosheva* labored as Bible woman in two new villages. Varvaritsa is a tiny hamlet of sixteen houses hidden among the Strumnitsa hills. Our one brother here returned to his home last year after serving a term in the prison of the Seven Towers in Salonica, on the accusation of having fed brigands. His soul was filled with zeal for his neighbors and friends; and he gladly welcomed the Bible woman to his one-roomed house for a month, while she taught the women and children who came to her. Those were two happy evenings which two of us spent in Varvaritsa and its neighboring village of Vilusa during corn-husking last autumn; under the glorious harvest moon we husked with the merry young folks and sang gospel hymns to them. "Sing us another," they pleaded; "we never heard such songs before." Preacher Knioff and his companion sang "The Ninety and Nine," and "I will sing of Jesus," while a hush fell upon the jolly crowd. The light shone steadily from this humble home until the political disturbance, which broke out early this year, compelled our Brother Vasil to flee into free Bulgaria, lest he be thrown into prison again upon some suspicion.

Kolesheno is another village in which Mrs. Oosheva worked for the first time this year, and later in Doiran. In the latter place, after a season of earnest inquiry, one family came out on the Lord's side and called for a

* Mrs. Oosheva was with Miss Stone at the time of her capture.

teacher. Although the husband's work was at once cut off when he declared himself a Protestant, they shared their home with our Bible woman, and rejoiced to see their veranda filled with women and children who constantly sought her. Even the ten-year old daughter of the house had to bear her cross for Jesus, when her teacher refused to call her by name, but said scornfully, "Now we will hear what this Protestant will say!" But the happy-faced maiden lifted her dark eyes bravely to tell us, "I'll bear this cross for Jesus, who bore so much for me." We have great hope for this place, beautifully situated upon the lake bearing the same name; that it will yet have an important part in the evangelization of Macedonia,—perhaps as a resort for Christian workers at summer conferences, classes and the like. Our hearts have ached for another such worker as Mrs. Oosheva to go to waiting homes in Guevgueli, Bagdantse and other places. These open doors are so many and so far exceed our present ability to enter, that we call upon our friends to pray, as our Saviour himself enjoined, "the Lord of the harvest that he will send laborers into his harvest."

Schools were maintained last year for the first time in Drama and Prishtnia. It was a happy day last spring when the young teacher of the latter school, Miss Esther S. Mladenovitch, a daughter of the leading Servian family there, marshalled her thirteen little Servians in line, and led them out for the first time as a school. Her father and other friends accompanied her, and we went to the Protestant cemetery on the hillside, where the children plucked wild flowers and decorated the grave of our noble friend who last year was laid there, and of the little children who had preceded him to heaven. We have great joy in this first Servian evangelical school, and in the tactful, successful work of its young teacher, who graduated last summer from our Monastir school. Prishtnia is one of the places calling loudly for a preacher, and our hearts sadden as we think of a son of one of the leading evangelical families there, to whom our eyes had turned as the first Servian preacher, now far away in America.

Two of our older schools, Bansko and Murtanio, advanced their course last year. Schools were continued as usual in Mehomia, Banya, Eleshnitsa, Gurmen, Monospitovo and Todorak, all the teachers being charged with the spiritual nurture of the pupils and their families, as well as with their mental development. Five schools were visited at their closing exercises,—those at Todorak, Murtanio (?), Monospitovo, Kortcha in Albania and Monastir. We congratulate the Kortcha school upon its successful advancement from a day school to a boarding school.

May the Spirit of God endue all teachers and Bible women, as well as other laborers for the evangelization of Macedonia, with wisdom and consecration of soul to meet her need at this most critical period of her history.



WEST CENTRAL AFRICA.

CHRISTMAS AT CHISAMBA.

BY MISS M. W. MELVILLE.

OH, what a crowd of people! More and more are coming, as far as the eye can see. They are very much like the negroes that Americans are accustomed to see, and yet they are so different.

The father, walking very erect, comes first. He is tall and of a rather slight build. His hair is very black and curly, forming a sort of frame for his black face, with his black eyes and white teeth sparkling as he smilingly answers the greeting given him. He is followed by his chief wife with her baby. She is dressed in her very best clothes. These seem rather scanty and queer. She wears a red handkerchief folded and tied around her head. Her hair, too, is black and curly, but much longer than that of her husband. It is braided in probably twenty little braids across her forehead, and the back portion is also braided in many braids tied together at the back. Her dress resembles a huge cotton sheet, but is of some bright color. It is tied around her body just under her arms, and at the waist one will see a long white girdle only twelve inches wide, but about four yards long. This is wound around and around her waist many times, and at last tied in a knot in the front. But where is the baby? Look on her back. You will see it there, with its little black head lying against its mother's back. It is fast asleep, for it is as cozy as can be. She ties it on with her large cloth, and carries it everywhere she goes. That is its cradle.

The woman carries on her head a large basket full of corn meal. She places it beside many others in one of the kitchens. Let us go with her.

The clear notes of the bugle call have been heard for some time, and we will follow the crowd. They elbow their way into a large building, the largest one within many miles. It is already full of people, some sitting on the wooden benches, others on the floor or window sills or platform. There is such a jam no one else can find room. The service begins with the Christmas hymn, "Glory be to God." How beautifully those people sing. They listen to the story of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. Some of them have never heard it before, and it sounds to them so new and strange. They listen so eagerly. We pray some may soon believe it.

The schoolhouse looks very pretty in its Christmas dress. The walls have been rewhitened, and new pictures from the large primary rolls sent to us by some American Sunday schools have been tacked up. Evergreens decorate the platform, hanging in wreaths and encircling the pillars. In the center is seen the text, "Ulamba wa Tate,"—"Glory to God." The missionaries and native evangelists occupy the platform, where the little baby organ has a prominent place.

When the meeting is dismissed it is not an easy task to reach the open air again, for the crush is great. At last, however, we are successful, and find the people very happy. On our greeting them we have a hearty response. It is proper for those who are entertaining to greet the entertained by clapping the hands and repeating, "Kalunga! Kalunga!" to which they reply, "Kalunga! Kalunga!" They sit down in separate groups of men and women, considering it very improper for all to eat together. Even in their own families they eat apart. An ox, or possibly two, has been killed, and the meat is stewed with plenty of gravy in huge pots; the young men of the mission station superintend this, while the young women make the mush. This latter is an operation as great as the baking of bread for six hundred people, but "many hands make light work," and many pots soon make the mush. It is made by boiling the water and stirring into it as much corn meal as possible, no salt being added; for it is too expensive to use salt in such large quantities, but a small amount is put into the meat. The mush, which is quite solid, is eaten with the fingers, spoons being very rare. It is broken into pieces, and each piece is dipped into the meat relish. When the appetites of the natives are being satisfied the missionaries are not forgetting their own Christmas dinner of roast beef and plum pudding—often with the plums missing.

One thing that would be noticed by a looker-on would be the number of new coats and shirts worn by the men, or the new jackets by the women,

the children being very prominent in their new dresses of bright materials. Each person living at the station receives a Christmas gift of some kind to bring to mind the greatest of all gifts, Jesus Christ our Saviour. Many, too, of the prominent men of the country, and the faithful old women, receive their presents. It is somewhat amusing; six weeks or two months after the great day an old man will come to church wearing his coat with the ticket on which his name is written attached. Often we have seen the price ticket still on the shirt months after it was bought at the coast. It is a part of the shirt. Why not wear it?

But let us hasten on with the people to a long track prepared for the races. The sun is very hot, so let us find shelter under the trees. How eagerly the people take part! First, one hundred-yard race for boys under ten years; first prize, a jackknife; second prize, a small looking-glass; second, one hundred-yard race for girls under ten years; first prize, a string of beads; second prize, a comb; third, tug of war, twelve young men; prize to each of the winning side, a saw. How eagerly they pull, and how the crowd cheers when the six young men from the mission station win, their steady pull together soon overcoming the individual strengths of the six village men! Other races, archery, gun shooting and hurdle jumping occupy the remainder of the afternoon. The crowd gradually disperses as the sun sinks at the end of a glorious day. All are weary, and after evening prayers a hush soon falls on the whole country.

HELPS FOR LEADERS.

THE COVENANT.

GRATEFUL that "I know that my Redeemer liveth,"—

Mindful that vast millions of women and girls can never hear the "tidings of great joy" unless a Christian woman be sent to them,—

Remembering that Jesus made loving obedience the supreme test of discipleship, and that his last most solemn command was, "Go teach all nations,"—

I gladly enter into this covenant of obedience, that I will not cease to make offerings of Prayer, Time and Money, to the end that the daughters of sorrow in heathen lands may know the love of Jesus.

[The above pledge is offered to all young ladies in the territory of the W. B. M., three thousand and eighty-five having adopted it thus far. A roll-book kept at headquarters carefully records the names of all Daughters of the Covenant. Plain slips with the words printed upon them are distributed freely. When signed by the girls and returned to us, large illuminated cards containing the text are sent in exchange, no price being charged except postage (three cents). For further information address Miss Kate G. Lamson, 706 Congregational House, Boston.]

OUR COVENANT PLEDGE.

BY MRS. ABBY C. LABAREE.

IN our restless age, such a pledge as that of the "Daughters of the Covenant" cannot fail to be of inestimable value. It gives stability and purpose to the work of our young women who adopt it, either as societies or as isolated members in communities where no society has been formed.

The promise "I will," like the Christian Endeavor pledge, is rightly felt to be more binding than the desire, or even the purpose, to do. Some question the propriety of any pledge, because, as they say, it is not always "lived up to." But it is a great advantage to aim high. As quaint old George Herbert sings,

"He who aims for the sky, shoots higher far
Than he who aims for a tree."

Such a pledge is something to hold to, something to steady the aim. For workers forming societies, or for those who are forever forced to "strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die," nothing could be better for a working plan.

The definiteness of its aim is invaluable,—“offerings of prayer, time and money.” So often our endeavors lack a well-defined channel. By this covenant our daughters are directed to the three channels of efficient service, always open to them, into which they pledge themselves to enter.

Its perpetuity of aim is also invaluable,—“I will not cease.” It cannot be a changeful, fitful service, as so much of human work is apt to be; it is undertaken definitely for life.

Its altitude is inspiring. From this covenant height our daughters behold the vast company of suffering, sinning humanity in every land, and also the blessed upward way that they themselves have come, with their ever-living, ever-loving Lord; and their ever-widening opportunity of telling the “old, old story,” that has done “so much” for them, to others. The “can never hear” is most uplifting, for it must ever remind them of the word that sent our dear Mary Morrill to her bitter cross and to her unfading crown:—“Unless some woman go.”

Its order is significant,—“prayer, time and money.” Youth knows far less of the value of prayer than age. This covenant, rightly placing it first, emphasizes for them the most important part of their trinity of service. As wisely sang that marvelous workman of God, the saintly Dr. Mulhensburg:—

“O, take the heed, and never say,
I have too much to do to pray,
Lest half thy work be thrown away,
And thou at last lose all thy pay.”

In these days when youth is so immersed in busy pursuits, when so many of our girls are bread-winners, and have scant time for meetings, such an organization, such a covenant, binding them in "obedience" and "grateful" remembrance to God, and in loving sympathy and fellowship with him and his dear Son, to the daughters of sorrow in every land and clime, must prove the open door to holiest service.

Scraps from our Work Basket.

RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR. Before the close of the financial year of the Board the deficiency reported in these paragraphs the last few months was so far made up that the total falling off for the year was only \$220.91. To this, however, we must add an increase of \$1,022.86 in the amount given to special objects, so that there was \$1,243.77 less available for the regular work than in the previous year. There was an unprecedented increase in legacies of \$26,673.44, so that we close our year with rejoicing. We must be allowed, however, to add a note of warning. The large legacies received the past year cannot be expected to be repeated the coming year, and we shall need to strain every nerve for advance in the regular contributions. We wish to ask every one of our workers, each in her own church, to begin immediately to plan for this advance in the best way and at the best time. We leave the matter to the prayerful consideration of all, convinced that it can be done and will be done if we all work heartily and prayerfully together.

THE UNITED STUDY OF MISSIONS. The historical course on missions from the apostolic age to the close of the eighteenth century has been received with much interest and enthusiasm by auxiliaries and individuals in our own and other Woman's Boards. The text-book by Miss L. M. Hodgkins is having a large sale, the first edition being exhausted in less than a month after its issue. We propose to give in *LIFE AND LIGHT* at least six articles through the year supplementing the text-book. The first of the series appears in this number on "Early Women Martyrs," by Miss Frances J. Dyer. Others are to follow on "Queen Bertha and Our Anglo-Saxon Ancestors," by Miss Mary Breese Fuller of Smith College; on "Women Missionaries of the Middle Ages," by Mrs. Isabel N. Tillinghast of Vassar, and other articles by Prof. S. F. Whiting of Wellesley, a friend at Mt. Holyoke and Mrs. Joseph Cook.

**THE DEPUTATION
IN INDIA.**

The deputation timed their visit to Madura so as to attend the "September meeting" of the Mission from August 29th to September 6th. Miss Bessie Noyes gives an enthusiastic account of their visit, from which we cull the following. Morning and evening sessions were held with the deputation, and papers on various phases of the work were read followed by informal discussions. The subjects of these papers given by the missionary gentlemen were on general subjects, such as "Education,"—from the primary schools to the Theological Seminary,—on "Medical Work," "The Material Condition of the People," "Village Congregations," and other pertinent topics. Mrs. H. C. Hazen presented a paper on Woman's Work considered in all its departments and in its relation to the other work. Two sessions were held with native pastors, which gave great satisfaction to all concerned. Miss Noyes writes: "The deputation were here till Friday, September 6th. We all went to the station to see them off, as did most of the native Christian men. Those of the girls who had not gone home for vacation, gathered on the veranda and sang good-by songs. The visitors really seemed to enjoy seeing the girls and the school on all occasions, and it was delightful to have them so appreciative." Miss Mary Harding writes from Sholapur: "I cannot tell you how much we enjoyed the deputation, nor how much good their visit to Sholapur did us all. We entertained Dr. and Mrs. Barton, and Mrs. Gates, Dr. Loba and Mr. Whittemore. They were with us from Friday until Wednesday afternoon, and it was surprising how much we crowded into those few days. They visited all our schools, and saw the various departments of our work, and their appreciation, sympathy and advice were all so helpful. Hardly ever did any of the gentlemen come out from any gathering without being garlanded, and oftentimes they received a number during the day. Mrs. Barton, after getting together quite a number of these garlands, would call my little famine babies around her, and would slip them around their necks, much to their delight. The little ones grew to be very fond of the "sahib" and "mudum sahib," and were very sorry to have them go.

**THE NEW VICEROY OF
CHILI, CHINA.**

Li Hung Chang is a name which is well known all over the world, and there are those who feel that his death brings great loss to the Chinese empire. The general opinion seems to be, however, that he had not the integrity, the honesty, both political and personal, nor the unselfish patriotism which China needs at the present crisis. His successor, Yuan Shih Kai, transferred from the province of Shantung, has the reputation of being an enlightened statesman, favorable to reforms and Western ideas, and friendly to foreigners. May he prove to be just the right person to lead the grand old empire out of the old darkness into the new light.

OUR CAPTIVES
IN MACEDONIA.

When the November number of LIFE AND LIGHT went to press we had strong hopes that before another issue our captives in Macedonia would be released. Such is not the case, and except that another month of effort must bring the time nearer, success seems as distant as ever. Very few letters from missionaries have been received the past month, whether because of lack of anything positive to write or whether there is fear that mails will be tampered with, we do not know. Our readers will appreciate the perplexities of this most complicated case and also the absolute necessity for secrecy. We can only refer friends to the items in the daily press, taking them for what they are worth, wishing that whatever is true had not been made public, and that we need not be roused by false rumors. We can only leave the matter with the representative of our Government abroad, and await developments with what patience we can command.

In Memoriam.

REV. A. C. THOMPSON, D.D. In the death of Rev. Dr. Thompson the Woman's Board has lost a trusted friend from the beginning of its history. Like many other conservative leaders in the church, his first attitude toward our organization was one of questioning. A little later, however, he gave his hearty approval to the movement, and in all the years since no one has been more thoroughly sympathetic with our work. A member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board for forty-four years, his knowledge of missions was phenomenal, and the smallest part of the machinery of the high and holy calling was of interest to him. His interest in the Woman's Board was manifested in many little ways: in sending occasionally a missionary item culled from his wide reading, a book notice for LIFE AND LIGHT, a kindly message now and then, which showed his continued thought for us. Even from his last sick bed came an extract from a letter he had received from Dr. Barton, in Ceylon, describing the pleasant memories cherished yet by the older Christians of the deputation of nearly fifty years ago, of which he was a member. Dr. Thompson's beautiful and stately presence was an ornament to the many gatherings of the Board, public and private, and his genial wit made it a pleasure to meet him in the most casual way. His appearance was so vivid and full of life it is impossible to associate him with the grave. We think of him, rather, still more radiant in the beatific fruition of his visions of faith through all his ninety years.

MRS. L. R. NORTON. A great loss has come to our Board in the death of Mrs. L. R. Norton, of Westfield, Mass., Vice President of our Springfield Branch. Mrs. Norton has been a whole-souled, enthusiastic worker in our Board from its commencement. She was a model auxiliary president and Branch officer, but her influence extended far beyond these organizations. She had reduced the collection and classification of missionary information to a science, and was a genius as an arranger of programmes. Unlike most auxiliary presidents, she did not wish to arrange her programmes for the season, preferring to seize upon passing and recent events as the basis for a bright and interesting meeting. For one so alert and informed as she, and one who could so well select her helpers, and inspire them with some of her own zeal, it was a safe and interesting arrangement to make, and her meetings were sure to be alive, and vivid representations of missions. A chance contact with her at a meeting, or elsewhere, always brought good cheer and real uplift. It is only a few weeks since her visit to the Board rooms brought its accustomed cheer, and it was a shock very soon afterwards when we learned that, after a few days' illness with pneumonia, she had gone home.

MRS. A. T. TWING, HONORARY
SECRETARY OF THE
AUXILIARY OF THE BOARD OF
MISSIONS OF THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH.

Those who have attended the Interdenominational Conferences in New York City the past few years and the preparatory meetings for the Ecumenical Conference, will be grieved to hear of the death of Mrs. A. T. Twing, who has been most prominent in the deliberations and discussions. Her thorough knowledge and interest in missions of all Boards, enhanced by a recent extended trip around the world, made her a most valuable counselor. As a member of the Central Committee on the United Study of Missions representing the Episcopal Church she has been invaluable. Feeling the responsibility of the position, she allowed nothing to escape her attention which could be of service to the united movement; and by her personal influence she enlisted the hearty co-operation and indorsement of the Episcopal Board of Missions in it. Her last letters to the writer were full of anticipation in attending the Church Congress in San Francisco, little knowing what awaited her there,—a brief illness of pneumonia and a translation to the world beyond.

MISS ISABELLA THOBURN. The announcement of the death of Miss Isabella Thoburn brought great sorrow to mission workers all over the world. She belonged to the mission world, and not to any one country or denomination. We have not space to speak of her wonderful work in India, of the Lucknow Woman's College, which she founded and brought to triumphant success,

and of the hundreds of women and girls whom she led to her Lord and Master. A late number of *The Indian Witness*, a Methodist paper published in Calcutta, gives an interesting account of two memorial services held for her in Lucknow,—one in the Hindustani and the other in the English church, on September 15th. We give brief extracts from the many tributes given: “Amid all her broad planning her grasp of details was striking, and marked the master hand. Like the great sculptor Michael Angelo, she seemed continually to have before her the motto, ‘Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle;’ and as every stroke of his chisel was a part of the final perfection, so every day of her life entered into the Lucknow Woman’s College.” “When I first saw Miss Thoburn, nine years ago, she had a smile on her face; when I saw her last, on her death-bed, she had a smile on her face; and when I see her again, please God, it shall be with a smile on her face.” “Miss Thoburn’s life was a life of unselfishness, helpfulness, kindness and cheerfulness; her character was marked by truth, faith, love and service; she was a woman of prayer; a true missionary, chosen and called of God, who, above everything else in her life, manifested Christ-likeness.”

EXTRACTS FROM RECENT LETTERS.

FROM MRS. MARGARET B. HASKELL, SAMOKOV, BULGARIA, OCT. 3, 1901.

I DOUBT if I can add anything to what Doctor House has written of the capture of our dear Miss Stone. Of course we all know the dignity and composure with which she would bear her trial. Our students expected that she would make some outcry, would weep and remonstrate when separated from her companions; but they said she was perfectly quiet. I am told that she put her hand on the shoulder of a young teacher and said, “Pray for me.” This same teacher says that after a little one of the brigands who went with her came back, looked over some things that were scattered on the ground till he found a Bible, which he tucked under his arm and returned to his comrades. I think Miss Stone must have asked for it, and it comforts us to think that she was given the support of the blessed Word.

She is widely known and greatly beloved in both Bulgaria and Macedonia, and a great volume of prayer has been going up for her during these weeks of her captivity. Sympathy is deep also for her companion, Mrs. Tsilka, torn from her young husband only a month after the death of their beautiful

child, and in a condition where she needs tender care. Not only we missionaries, but many Bulgarian friends say, "They are constantly in our thoughts day and night." In our woman's meeting a Bulgarian sister said: "I rise in the night, and looking at the moon say, 'O blessed moon, for you can see them;' and I weep as I remember Miss Stone's sweet smile and her encouraging words to me and my children. As she has comforted me, so may God comfort her." Another who has passed through deep waters said: "God is nearer in trouble than at any other time. If they are on the mountain tops, God is there; if they are in the lowest valley or darkest ravine, again God is there; and where he is there is peace."

One blessing from this trial is that hearts are being drawn nearer to God and to each other. Doubtless, too, we are all finding more in the Word than in ordinary times. We understand a little what it means that "it is granted us in the behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer in his behalf." Do pray that we may all meet this trial with all that it involves to each of us—for of course those who are working for Miss Stone's rescue are in more or less peril—with Christian fortitude and unflinching trust.

FROM REV. WM. H. GULICK, BIARRITZ, FRANCE.—CONCERNING MISS
CATHERINE H. BARBOUR.

Though turning her hand to anything and everything that was necessary, her choice was for the natural sciences, with strong predilection for botany. Her enthusiastic and able work in these departments awakened like interest in her pupils, and produced such results in their public examinations in the Government Institute that once and again she received the congratulations of the professors. With a frequency that had never before been customary in Spain, she took her pupils to the fields to study nature near to Nature's heart. Every road and path and valley and hillside of the surrounding country were familiar to her, and yielded to her loving inquiries the secrets that they do not tell to the careless passer-by.

Miss Barbour's love of nature could not be called merely sentimental, nor was it superficial. She probably had a completer knowledge of the flora of the Province of Guipúzcoa, of which San Sebastián is the capital, than any other person living. Well may her adopted country mourn the death of so able and sympathetic a student of its flowers and plants, its stones and trees, that she loved so intelligently and so deeply.

But it would be unjust indeed to let it be thought for a moment that her influence was merely intellectual, for she also reached the character of her pupils by taking an important share in the direction and discipline. An en-

thusiastic teacher in her special department, she always dwelt upon the truth that all science and knowledge are vain and worthless to him that will not discover in them the Author of all law, and yield himself to the revelations they afford of the infinite power and love of the Creator of the world and of all that in it is.

It would be impossible in such a letter as this to even mention the many ways in which she lovingly performed the duties of a missionary, proving ever that through the minds of her pupils she sought their souls, and that through nature she would only lead them up to Nature's God. Of her several fields of labor I will mention but one, in which she showed the same enthusiasm and intelligent tenacity of purpose as in her labors in the field of science—that of Christian Endeavor.

When she reached Spain there was already in the Institute a society of Christian Endeavor. In this her energy and enthusiasm found the widest scope for action, and her missionary zeal the fullest opportunity for employment. At first it was limited to the students of the boarding school; later it was extended to those of the day school and of the congregation, and finally to the entire evangelical community in Spain.

In this same interest, and for the purpose of establishing a bond of union among the graduates of the boarding school, helped by many willing hands, she sent out at intervals a manuscript letter, which grew into a monthly letter of a hundred copies, and then into a printed periodical entitled *Esfuerzo Cristiano*, with three hundred subscribers, and with now a monthly circulation of some five hundred copies.

I must not here take the space to tell the interesting, and, in some of its phases, the thrilling story of the launching of this paper as a full-grown printed monthly *revista*, as the Spaniards call it; of the unexpected, extraordinary and numerous obstacles, personal, mechanical, local and governmental, all in time met and overcome, largely by the energy, spirit and intelligence of Miss Barbour. Truly this paper stands to-day as a monument and memorial to the Christian zeal and sanctified intelligence of our dear friend.

FROM MISS FLORENCE E. HARTT, AHMEDNAGAR, INDIA, AUGUST 30, 1901.

We have found this week a very exciting one. Tuesday last was Mrs. Bissell's fiftieth anniversary. At 8.30 the service began in the church, during which Mrs. Bissell was presented with five addresses, two of them fully a yard each in length. She was given two bags of money to go toward the Memorial Church to be built in Jeur. After this she must have received not less than forty garlands; she was buried in flowers nearly up to her eyes. The people went almost wild with enthusiasm for their missionary mother,

as well they might, for her life has been spent in loving, faithful service for them. In the evening one of the splendid outstanding Christian characters, a lawyer, gave a kirttan—a sort of a musical cantata, entirely and distinctively native. It was the first one I have heard, and I found it most novel and interesting. The most striking thing about it to an American ear, perhaps, was the one single note in the bass that sounded without one single break the whole hour and a half that the kirttan lasted. A small drum, tuned to this same note, also kept up a continual din. The kirttan consisted of a series of choruses, the leader being assisted by four boys, and solos or sort of semi-solos given in a very declamatory style by the leader, in a kind of sing-song tone, in harmony always with the aforementioned bass note. This part was not in verse, but resembled an exhortation, and had been especially prepared for the occasion and adapted to suit the music of some old native kirttan. The first half described Christ's life and death, and urged a life of service for him; the last gave a brief review of Mrs. Bissell's life. It seemed to me that the leader possessed qualities that would have captivated an American audience to the same degree as they did this Indian one.

Our Work at Home.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD.

BY ALICE M. KYLE.

THE thirty-fourth annual meeting of the Board was held November 6 and 7, with the Berkshire Branch, in the beautiful town of Pittsfield, at the historic First Church, mother of many of the neighboring churches.

Abounding and specially gracious hospitality, delightful weather, and all possible provision for social intercourse, and for the routine work of such an assembly, gave to the environment comfort and cheer in a measure not to be forgotten.

The devotional meetings preceding the regular sessions were led on Wednesday by Mrs. C. L. Goodell, of Boston, and on Thursday by Mrs. W. H. Davis, of Newton, and, as always, the spirit of prayer and of eagerness for service prevailed in these opening hours. The reports of the

twenty-four Branches presented on Delegates' Day were of an unusually high order, both as to manner and matter, and the discussions of the vital questions before the delegates were both spirited and harmonious.

The general thought under consideration was the Effect of Present Conditions on Woman's Work for Woman in Foreign Missions, and Wednesday morning, precisely at ten o'clock, the gavel of the President, Mrs. Judson Smith, called the meeting to order; and it was found that the thirty-fourth annual meeting would go upon the records as an unusually representative meeting for one held away from Boston, every one of the Branches being represented, with a total of 202 delegates. An unusually large number of officers were present, among them the presidents of fourteen Branches, while six Branches had their full number of delegates.

Mrs. W. W. Curtis, president of the Berkshire Branch, welcomed the Board with graceful and earnest words, referring to the historic interest of the neighborhood as the birthplace of the American Board and the home of Jonathan Edwards. Mrs. Smith responded on behalf of the Board, calling attention to the fact that the work in which it is engaged is to-day linking together the governments of the world in a struggle for righteousness.

Almost the entire session was given to the reports of "The Year's Work." Miss Child's report of the Home Department, with its varying tones of color, and its suggestions of opportunity and needs, will prove as valuable a text-book as ever for coming weeks of work.

The Treasurer, Miss Sarah Louise Day, reported the receipts from regular contributions during the year to be \$107,246.78; from legacies, \$50,124.43, and in interest, \$4,362.42, making a total of \$161,733.63,—a loss in contributions of \$220.91, and an increase in gifts for special objects of \$1,022.86, thus decreasing the amount available for the regular work by \$1,243.77. In addition to this report, Miss Day made a statement in regard to the Adjustment Fund, of which \$33,000 is either pledged or paid. The imperative necessity of an increased effort during the coming year to meet the growing demands of the work was made evident by these figures.

The story of the Year's Work in the eighteen mission fields under the partial care of the Woman's Board was presented in a summary compiled from the graphic reports of the four corresponding secretaries by the Field Secretary.

The first missionary address followed, when the story of "A Year's Work in Foochow" was told by Mrs. George H. Hubbard, of Pagoda Anchorage, revealing the great need of the sad-faced, bound-footed little brides and worse than widowed wives, and the cheer and consolation so eagerly looked for in the visits of bright-faced Mrs. Sun, the Bible woman.

The afternoon session of Wednesday was adapted especially for the younger workers, and was opened most fittingly by the report of the Secretary for Junior Work, Miss Kate G. Lamson, with its story of progress in the face of some difficulties and discouragements. The contributions from all departments of Junior Work were \$20,117.93, a gain of \$707.66 over last year.

Of intense interest, as always, was the presentation of the missionaries to the audience, which was done by Miss Stanwood in a manner which left nothing to be desired. Fourteen missionaries were grouped upon the platform, from Africa, from India, from Turkey, from the far-away islands of the South Pacific, the veteran from the Zulu Mission, the daughter and the granddaughter of missionary names so well known, Tyler and Noyes, the volunteers yet unscarred by the fierceness of the fight, a representative also of "India's Women," Miss Susie Sorabji of Poona, and one from "China's Millions," Miss Shile Ngang Lee, a pupil of the Methodist Mission in Central China. Again were heard sweet Bible words in strangest tongues, yet all telling the "old, old story"; and when the three young women under appointment, Miss Alice Gleason for Mexico, Miss Harriet L. Osborne and Miss Evelyn M. Worthley for Foochow, came forward to be set apart to service by the consecrating prayer, voiced by Mrs. E. E. Strong, the presence of the Leader of the Lord's hosts seemed very near.

Miss Mary E. Woolley, president of Mount Holyoke College, gave at this session an able portrayal of the "Influence of the College upon Woman's Work for Woman." "The college stands for head training, hand training and heart training. Education may end in selfishness, but it should end in selflessness, for no career is worth the name unless it has Christ for its center."

A striking contrast followed when Miss Shile Ngang Lee came forward in her quaint, Oriental dress to speak concerning her life in China. Her child-like naïveté, and her deep, mature, Christian experience, together with her charming, piquant little face, made a fascinating personality, vivid in memory, but beyond pen-portrayal. Herself a type of the second generation of Christians, her plea for the women of China showed so desperate a need that the remark of one who listened carried weight,—“But for seeing her, it would all seem hopeless; but she is a revelation of what Christ can do for a Chinese woman.” The picture of the sorrows of a “Girl's Life in Turkey” was shown by Miss Ilse C. Pohl, of Smyrna, its sadness relieved by the recital of the transformation wrought in the lives of these same girls under the power of the pure gospel, shown in the ministries of the King's Daughters' Society of the Smyrna Girls' School to the poor and suffering.

Most helpful were the closing exercises of the Covenant Service, to which Miss Mary Breese Fuller, of Smith College, brought strong, uplifting words as to the privilege of giving our little, not to those who have the most, but to those who are least in value in the world's eyes, and least in opportunity.

The evening session was opened with a devotional service conducted by the pastor of the church, Rev. W. V. W. Davis, followed in rapid succession by three addresses, "India's Women and Their Wrongs," by Miss Sorabji, "The Fidelity of Native Christians," by Miss Luella Miner (W. B. M. I.), of Tung-cho, China, and "A Woman's Life in Heathenism," by Rev. George A. Wilder, of Chikore, East Central Africa,—all of striking, yet painful interest, relieved only by the wonderful testimony borne by native Christians in times of sorrow and of martyrdom, and by the knowledge that these lights in dark places are shining with a light that is to brighten into the perfect day. But who that saw it will ever forget the picture of the black chart of India's suffering, dying women, upheld by Miss Sorabji, Rev. Mr. Wilder, and our Home Secretary herself,—the living link between the hopelessness of heathenism and the joy of Christ's redemption for suffering womanhood?

Most gratefully did Miss Shile Ngang Lee "clear the atmosphere" by telling us some of the brighter side of the story, for she said, "I must do something to bring the gladness back, for my heart is sore, and I cannot speak when I am sad." Her singing of "Saved by Grace," beautiful in melody and in its expression of Christian faith and hope, sent the great audience homeward with the thought of hope and not of despair, victory and not of defeat, in the face of the terrible facts from a heathen world.

Thursday morning, greetings from the Woman's Board of the Pacific Islands were brought by Miss Judd, of Honolulu; from the Canadian Congregational Woman's Board, a part of our own working force, by Mrs. Moodie, president of the Quebec Branch; and from the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, in session at Philadelphia. Greetings were returned to the latter Board, and also sent to our retiring Recording Secretary, Mrs. Henry D. Noyes.

At this session was received the report of the committee on the reports of the Home Department, through its chairman, Miss Daggett, of the New Haven Branch.

The committee appointed to consider the reports of home work, consisting of Miss Susan E. Daggett, Mrs. Julia W. Jewell, Mrs. Anna R. Wilkinsons, Mrs. Mary E. Packard and Miss Susan N. Brown, desire to call attention to the following points:—

The Home Secretary, Miss Child, has reminded us that nine hundred and six of the Congregational churches in our Board territory still remain unconnected with our W. B. M. work. We suggest that the "Determined Effort" to gain all such churches needs to be continued as an energetic factor of our next year's work.

In connection with the report of the Junior Department we recommend that closer intercourse be established between senior and junior societies, perhaps visiting members conveying information from one to the other; that Junior Work be always given a conspicuous place at Branch meetings; and that a secretary for promoting the co-operation of primary Sunday schools be included among Branch officers.

We recommend most heartily the new course of Mission Study. In these days when we are availing ourselves of so many sources of information,—book clubs, magazine clubs, book-lovers' library, etc.,—realizing that cultivation makes us more serviceful, we cannot afford to neglect so great an opportunity for increased knowledge (and usefulness) of a subject so commanding in its importance.

To those societies which had already planned their programmes for this winter, we suggest that extra classes may be formed for this study, so that a short time from each meeting may be given to at least an outline of the present year's study, that they may be ready to fall thoroughly in line next year.

The committee is impressed with the very great importance of completing the Adjustment Fund, and getting back onto the most advantageous and unusual business basis on which our Board was begun,—that of paying in advance. Only one other missionary society, so far as we know, has any such fine business footing. We earnestly recommend that this movement be pressed, remembering always the caution that it should in no wise diminish the contributions for regular yearly work. We need, however, to remember also that this amount once raised, though preventing any future necessity for a debt, will not relieve us from the necessity of steadily increasing regular gifts to keep pace with the growth of the work abroad. Without such increase we shall be compelled to drop work because of its success,—almost as disastrous a disgrace as a debt.

The report of the Treasurer presents a large sum total. We want to guard against an impression that this means a full treasury. It is due to the receipts for the Adjustment Fund, to unusually large legacies, to a large sum for "specials" which simply passes through our treasury without telling upon our work. They form no part of our legitimate reliance for another year. In this connection we desire to place upon record our appre-

ciation and admiration of the clearness and thoroughness with which our Treasurer carries out her difficult and responsible duties, and to express our gratitude for her freely rendered service of love.

The remaining hour of this session was spent in considering the many-sidedness of the "Work of the Missionary Woman"; in Education, given by Miss Mary T. Noyes, of Madura, where we had again the contrasts between the awful sufferings and horrors of the demon worshipers and the sweet, bright lives of the Christian schoolgirls, and the unstinted generosity of native workers; in Evangelistic Work, by Miss Margaret W. Melville, of Chisamba, West Central Africa, with its earnest plea for the needy women of the Dark Continent; in Literature, the unique presentation of the power of the printed word in hymn, in leaflet, in gospel form, as prepared by Miss Harriet L. Bruce, of Satara, India, and her father. Miss Bruce, who is one of "India's Own," spoke of the great difficulties of the language, and said that over 100,000 copies of leaflets had been supplied to the Marathi-speaking people from this agency at Satara, where she had been her father's helper from a tiny child. The last division of this topic, In Medical Work, was brought in most interesting form by Mrs. Henry P. Perkins, of Lin Ching, who before her marriage was a medical missionary of the Methodist Board. Mrs. Henry D. Goodenough, of Johannesburg, made an earnest appeal regarding "Our Part in the Harvest," as the closing address of the morning session.

The closing session, Thursday afternoon, began with the election of officers. As Mrs. Henry D. Noyes, the Recording Secretary, declined reelection because of serious illness in her family, Mrs. J. F. Hill of Cambridge was elected to fill the position, Mrs. Noyes being retained upon the list of Directors, to which was also added the name of Mrs. J. E. Bradley, of Randolph.

"What Christianity Means to Oriental Women," was next depicted by two of the missionary workers, Miss Harriet L. Cole of Monastir, Macedonia, and Mrs. George E. Albrecht of Kyoto, Japan. The same need, the same degradation, the same possibilities, and the same rich reward for service, whatever the land,—a fact still further emphasized by Miss Sorabji in her picturesque Oriental dress, as she told of the empty lives of the favored classes in India, who having all things that wealth can give yet possess nothing; a startling antithesis to the Christian's position. "We will not let them alone; we will rouse them. We will give them something far sweeter, for to us who have known Christianity, it means that we have realized God's ideal for us; and over ten thousand miles I come to you to bid you enter the wide-open doors in India."

The last address was given by Rev. Judson Smith, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the American Board, on "The Outlook,"—"the outlook not from one century but from nineteen centuries. In this work universal conquest is essential; and though it has never been promised us that the way of progress should be a way of peace, the victory is assured" in the sign of the cross. "The tragedies of the past few years are but incidents, and lead to ampler paths of largest reward."

A prayer service was held on behalf of our beloved captive missionary, Miss Stone, of whom her aged mother has said, "I would rather have my daughter a missionary than to see her a queen upon a throne."

With a few closing words from the President, urging that in the face of all the facts, the one motto for "The Year's Work" must be "Advance," the meeting adjourned, to meet next November with the First Church in Washington, D. C., their invitation being extended through the Philadelphia Branch.

SIDELIGHTS FROM PERIODICALS.

JAPAN.

It is timely to know something of the present political leader in the Sunrise Kingdom. We shall find a delineation of his life and character, illustrated by special photographs, in the November *Scribner's*, under the title "Marquis Ito, the Great Man of Japan," by Fred. Palmer.

A picture of "Home Life in Japan," by Alex. Hume Ford, in the *Outlook*, November 2d, is made doubly attractive by unique artistic decorations.

MEXICO.

In the same, "The Man of Mexico" is presented, with photographs, by Chas. F. Lummis.

CHINA.

If one is interested in "Chinese Hieroglyphics," they may be found, pictured and explained by an authority, Elwood G. Tewksbury, in the November *Chautauquan*.

The question of Chinese exclusion is discussed by the Mayor of San Francisco, J. D. Phelan, in the November *North American Review*, and also in the October *Overland Monthly*, by Ho Yow, Chinese Consul General to that port.

Our late United States minister to China, Hon. Chas. Denby, has furnished many sidelights, and now adds a ray from "Agriculture in China," in the *Forum*, November.

TURKEY.

North American Review, November, "A Plea for American Intervention in Turkey," by Urbam Gohier.

AFRICA.

Forum, November, "The Development of Africa," by S. P. Verner.

GENERAL.

In the same, "The Political and Commercial Future of Asia," by W. C. Jameson Reid.

TOPICS FOR AUXILIARY MEETINGS.

TOPIC FOR JANUARY, 1902.

In beginning the course prepared by the committee appointed at the Ecumenical Conference, it would be fitting to have read at the meeting the "Statement of the Central Committee" as found in Miss Hodgkins' book, *Via Christi*. Extracts might also be read from the "Fore-Word," which immediately precedes the text. The following questions have been prepared to assist leaders of auxiliaries in the preparation of the regular meetings. 1. Give the aim of the apostolic missions, the method of gathering converts, the early church centers, the field of service and its hindrances, pages 3-6. 2. Give the names of the first missionary quartette and an account of the work in Syria, Africa and Persia, pages 6-12. 3. Give an account of the work and laborers in India, Greece, Italy, Spain, France and the British Isles, pages 12-17. 4. Describe the social condition of early Christians and the persecutions under the Roman emperors, pages 17-20. 5. Enumerate the great events and great productions from Paul to Constantine, A. D. 30-300, as found in Table 1, drawing attention briefly to such items as are specially impressive. 6. Read the great names as collected in Table 1, and refer particularly to Paul, Pliny the Elder, Josephus Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, and others. Extracts from the writings of the period will add interest to the programme (found on pages 21-34). The earliest known hymn, pages 26-27, could be read or sung in closing.

It might be interesting for some lady or ladies to be appointed to follow the Bible translations in the different periods, giving any particulars they can find about them. It is interesting to note that the Bible used by Christ and by Paul was the Greek edition of the Hebrew Scriptures, known as the *Septuagint*. The New Testament Scriptures were gathered together in the year 95 A. D. The translations of the Scriptures into Syriac and into Latin were made in the second century, and into the Coptic language in the third century, about A. D. 270. Polycarp is supposed to have heard the gospel from the lips of the Apostle John, and to have taught it to Irenæus, who in his turn carried it to France.

WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Receipts from September 18, 1901, to October 18, 1901.

MISS SARAH LOUISE DAY, Treasurer.

MAINE.

Eastern Maine Branch.—Mrs. J. S. Wheelwright, Treas. Bangor, Aux., 18.90; Central Ch., 16.20; Collection Penobscot Co. Cong. Women's Meetings, 15.75; Collected by Mrs. L. G. Davis, 11.50; Calais, Aux., 12; Dennysville, Remembrance Circle, 5; North Anson, Aux., 1; Princeton, First Cong. Ch., 7; Skowhegan, Somerset Co. Conf., 1.50, Aux., 4.50, 93 35

Western Maine Branch.—Mrs. C. C. Chapman, Treas. Kennebunkport, Ladies, 16.50; Portland, Seamen's Bethel Ch., Aux., 20, C. E. Soc., 7, Williston Ch., Prim. Dept., S. S., 1.66; Waterford, Aux., 6; Waterville, Aux., 20; Windham, Ladies, 8.56. Less expenses, 3.19, 76 53

Total, 169 88

CORRECTION.—\$10 credited in report of receipts, May 18th to June 18th, to C. E. Soc. of Farmington, Me., should have been credited to C. E. Soc. of Hallowell, Me.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

New Hampshire Branch.—Mrs. Allen L. French, Treas. Bath, Two Friends, 5; Bennington, C. E. Soc., 5; Centre Harbor, Aux., 5; Dunbarton, Aux. (with prev. contri. const. L. M. Miss Fannie L. Burnham), 18; Hollis, Aux., 12.50; Keene, Second Cong. Ch., Little Light Bearers, 8; Lyme, Aux., 44; Manchester, Franklin St. Ch., Cradle Roll, 13.50; Mason, Aux., 11, 122 00

Total, 122 00

VERMONT.

Vermont Branch.—Mrs. T. M. Howard, Treas. Ascutneyville, 5; Barton, 5; Barton Landing, 7.50; Charleston, West, 7; Corinth, East, 4.60; Craftsbury, North, 1; Derby, 10; Dorset, 21; Essex Junction, 15; Lyndonville, Aux., 50 cts., Busy Bees, 50 cts.; Manchester, C. E. Soc., 10, Jr. C. E. Soc., 50 cts.; Middletown Springs, 18.39; Pittsford, 2; Sheldon, 1; St. Johnsbury, East, 10; St. Johnsbury, North Ch., 19.40; Waterbury (with prev. contri. const. L. M. Mrs. F. B. Kellogg), 138 39

Total, 138 39

LEGACY.

Rutland.—Legacy of Laura A. Harmon, to Vermont Branch, through treasurer of Rutland, 200 00

MASSACHUSETTS.

A Friend, 1, A Friend, 5, 6 00

Andover and Woburn Branch.—Mrs. G. W. Dinsmore, Treas. Andover, Y. L. Soc. of Ch. Workers, 60.85; South Ch., Home Dept., S. S., 30; Chelmsford, Aux., 20; Dracut Centre, Aux., 19, Prim. Dept., S. S., 2; Lawrence, Lawrence St. Ch., Aux., 14, South Ch., Aux., 10, Trinity Ch., Aux. (with prev. contri. const. L. M. Mrs. Lizzie Fisher Abbott); Lowell, First Ch., Aux., 90, Kirk St. Ch., Aux., 25, Union Aux., 115.75; Pawtucket Ch., Aux., 47.20; Malden, First Ch., Aux., 19; Medford, Mystic Ch., Aux., 69.60; Union Ch., W. C. League, 5 27; Melrose Highlands, Aux., 20.84; Methuen, Aux., 22.30; Cradle Roll, 8.72; North Woburn, Aux. (25 const. L. M. Miss Martha J. Sevrens), 35; Reading, Aux. (100 const. L. M's Mrs. C. H. Nowell, Mrs. T. W. H. Hussey, Miss Climeya Wakefield, Mrs. Lora Parker), 102 88, Y. P. M. B. (50 const. L. M's Miss Lena G. Smith, Miss Zephia L. Thayer), 147; Stoneham, Aux., 33; Wakefield, Aux. (with prev. contri. const. L. M's Mrs. Emma E. Preston, Mrs. Carrie P. Noyes, Miss Mary Lena Miller, Miss Lillian M. Scovell, Mrs. Fred W. Sleeper, Mrs. Mary J. Burbank), 68; Winchester, Aux. (of wh. 25 by Mrs. M. A. Herrick const. L. M. Mrs. Annie W. Holt), 67; Seek and Save Soc., 25, Cradle Roll, 25; Woburn, Aux. (100 const. L. M's Mrs. Oliver F. Bryant, Mrs. D. Wilbur Brown, Mrs. John Jameson, Mrs. Abijah Thompson), 109.50, 1,191 91

Barnstable Branch.—Miss Amelia Snow, Treas. Centerville, Aux. (const. L. M. Mrs. B. H. Weston), 25; Falmouth, Aux., 31.20; North Falmouth, Aux., 20; South Wellfleet, 2; Yarmouth, Aux., 3, 81 20

Berkshire Branch.—Mrs. Chas. E. West, Treas. Adams, 9.25; Hinsdale, Aux., 14.50; Housatonic, 8.06; Lee, Aux., 284.75, 316 56

Essex North Branch.—Mrs. Wallace L. Kimball, Treas. Mrs. Perley Stone, 1 50, Friends in Wisconsin, 1.75; Georgetown, Mem. Ch., 20; Ipswich, First Ch., Aux., 25; Merrimac, Aux. (const. L. M. Miss Sally G. Sargent), 25, Cradle Roll, 5.14; Newbury, First Ch., Jr. Aux., 10; Newburyport, Aux., 58; Powell, M. C., 4, Tyler M. C., 2.10; South Byfield, Aux., 2, 154 49

Essex South Branch.—Miss Nannie L. Odell, Treas. Beverly, Dane St. Ch., Ivy Leaves M. C., 50, Cradle Roll, 13.25, Prim. Dept., S. S., 5; Roxford, Aux., 19; Cliftondale, Aux., 34.33, Cradle Roll, 9, Prim. Dept., S. S., 2; Danvers, Maple St. Ch., Jr. C. E. Soc., 10, Cradle Roll, 1.50, First Ch., Aux., 21, Miss. Study Class, 10, Braham M. C., 12.45, Cradle Roll, 1.62; Lynn, First Ch., Cradle Roll, 80 cts., North Ch., Golden Rule M. C., 20; Magnolia, Capron M. C., 5; Manchester, Aux., 42, Jr. C. E. Soc., 5; Marblehead, Jr. C. E. Soc., 5; Peabody, South Ch., Aux., 242, Jr. C. E. Soc., 8;

- Salem, Crombie St. Ch., Jr. C. E. Soc., 5, Cradle Roll, 13.25; Tabernacle Ch., Aux., 20, C. E. Soc., 9, Light Bearers M. C., 5, Kookoo Mem., 25, Cradle Roll, 7.30, Prim. Dept., S. S., 10; Saugus, Aux., 11.35, Loyal Workers, 9, Willing Workers, 6.18, Cradle Roll, 5.54; Swampscott, Aux., 43, Jr. C. E. Soc., 10, Cradle Roll, 1.66, 698 23
- Franklin Co. Branch.*—Miss Lucy A. Sparhawk, Treas. Bernardston, Aux., 11; Greenfield, Second Cong. Ch., Y. P. Alliance, 25; Orange, 34.80; Shelburne, 16.68; Shelburne Falls, 2; Sunderland, 10, 99 48
- Hampshire Co. Branch.*—Miss Harriet J. Kneeland, Treas. Amherst, Aux., 35; Amherst, South, Willing Workers, 10; Easthampton, Aux., 52.55, Covenant Band, 8; Enfield, Aux., 46; Granby, Light Bearers, 2.76; Greenwich, Aux., 5; Hatfield, Aux., 72.50; Northampton, Edwards Ch., Aux., 3, Th. Off. at Rally, 5.50; Southampton, Aux., 28.79, 269 10
- Lowell.*—Miss Josie L. Hitchcock, 10 00
- Middlesex Branch.*—Mrs. E. H. Bigelow, Treas. Dover, Powisset, Aux., 7; Framingham, Schneider Band, 25, Cradle Roll, 5; South Framingham, Aux., 32; Hopkinton, Aux. (25 const. L. M. Mrs. Julia L. Plimpton), 27.50; Lincoln, Aux., 50, Cradle Roll, 5.10; Marlboro, Aux., 58.60; Natick, Aux., 12; Northboro, Aux., 10; South Sudbury, Aux., 20; Wellesley, Aux., 2, 254 20
- Norfolk and Pilgrim Branch.*—Miss Sarah B. Tirrell, Treas. Braintree, South, Aux., 5; Brockton, Porter Ch., Aux., 17; Hanson, C. E. Soc., 2; Hanover, Aux., 3; Kingston, Aux., 3; Rockland, Aux., 31; Scituate Centre, Aux., 11.43; Sharon, Aux., 10; Stoughton, Aux., 3, C. E. Soc., 3, Jr. C. E. Soc., 4; Weymouth, East, Aux., 21.35; Weymouth Heights, Aux., 13.50; Whitman, Aux., 10, 137 28
- No. Middlesex Branch.*—Mrs. Lydia R. Hudson, Treas. Ayer, Aux., 24.59; Boxboro, Aux., 23.19; Concord, Aux., 34.92, C. E. Soc., 35, S. S. Miss. Soc., 40; Dunstable, Aux., 17.46; Pansy Band, 8.50, Cradle Roll, 3.50; Fitchburg, C. C. Ch., Aux., 92.15; Harvard, Aux., 29.10; Littleton, Aux., 4.85; Pepperell, Aux., 9.70; Townsend, Aux. (25 const. L. M. Miss Ellen Haynes), 26.58; Westford, Aux., 5; West Groton, W. M. Soc., 25, 379 54
- Old Colony Branch.*—Miss Frances J. Runnels, Treas. Attleboro, Aux. (50 const. L. M's Mrs. Everett S. Horton, Mrs. Edwin J. Horton), 178; East Taunton, Aux., 25; Edgartown, Aux., 10.29; Fairhaven, Aux., 14; Fall River, Aux., 33, Jr. Willing Helpers, 28, Cradle Roll, Edward Hooper Bowen, 5; Lakeville, Aux., 5; Marion, Aux. (with prev. contrl. const. L. M's Mrs. David B. Hatch, Mrs. Kate Blakinslip), 35; Middleboro, Aux. (75 const. L. M's Mrs. R. G. Woodbridge, Miss W. A. Harding, Mrs. P. R. Benson), 184.01, C. E. Soc., 10, Henrietta Band, 5; New Bedford, Aux. (50 const. L. M's Miss Caroline W. Hathaway, Miss Cornelia P. Matthes), 210; North Attleboro, Aux., 30; North Dighton, Aux., 57; Rehoboth, Aux., 20; Rochester, Aux., 29.65; Somerset, Aux., 12, Whatsoever Circle, 10, Henrietta Band, 5; South Attleboro, Aux., 23, Bethany Chapel, S. S., 18.56; Taunton, Aux., 183.33, 1,130 84
- Springfield Branch.*—Mrs. Mary H. Mitchell, Treas. Agawam, Aux., 31.87; Brimfield, Aux., 43; Chicopee, First Ch., Aux., 2; Chicopee Falls, Aux., 62.80; Feeding Hills, Aux. (25 const. L. M. Mrs. F. L. Garfield), 30; Granville Centre, Aux., 15; Hampden, Aux., 17; Holyoke, First Ch., Aux., 50 cts., Second Ch. (100 const. L. M's Miss Nellie McLeod, Mrs. J. Q. Johnson, Mrs. F. H. Morse, Mrs. Elbert Clark), 422.65; Indian Orchard, Aux., 24.25; Longmeadow, Aux., 23; East Longmeadow, Aux., 28.85; Ludlow, Aux., 38.13; Ludlow Centre, Aux., 9.25, Precious Pearls, 12; Mitineague, Aux., 50, The Gleaners, 5, Cradle Roll, 4.75; Monson, Aux., 77; South Hadley Falls, Aux., 13.47; Southwick, Aux., 20; Springfield, Miss Mary K. Stevens, 30, Hope Ch., Aux. (const. L. M. Mrs. W. S. Buxton), 25, Memorial Ch., Aux., 166.11, Lend-a-Hand Soc., 40, King's Dau., 10, C. E. Soc., 15, North Ch., Aux., 75, C. E. Soc., 10, Olivet Ch., Aux., 12.75, Golden Links, 30, Cradle Roll, 50 cts., Jr. C. E. Soc., 1.25, S. S., 30, Park Ch., Aux., 5.37, South Ch., Aux., 67.15, South Ch., 242; West Springfield, First Ch., Aux., 24.40, Cradle Roll, 7.50, M. C., 7.50, Park St. Ch., Aux., 52.75; Westfield, First Ch., Aux., 251.95, Second Ch., Aux., 63.17; Wilbraham, Aux., 13, 2,110 92
- Suffolk Branch.*—Miss Myra B. Child, Treas. Allston, Aux., 106.53; Auburndale, Aux., 32.75; Brighton, Aux. (of wh. 45.15 Cradle Roll), 86.16, Jr. C. E. Soc., 10; Boston, Union Ch., Aux., 190; Cambridge, A Friend, 30, North Ave. Ch., Aux., 145; Charlestown, Winthrop Ch., Aux., 105; Dorchester, Pilgrim Ch., Aux., 91; Everett, Cortland St. Ch., Jr. C. E. Soc., 93 cts., Mystic Side Ch., L. A. Soc., 10; Jamaica Plain, Central Ch., Jr. C. E. Soc., 5; Medfield, Cong. Ch., Aux., 5; Neponset, Aux., 5; Newton, Eliot Ch., Aux., 174, Eliot Guild, 137.75, Helpers, 18.50; Newton Centre, First Ch., L. A. Soc., 11; Newtonville, Miss S. E. Wheeler, 25, Central Ch., Aux., 137; Newton Highlands, Aux., 8.44; Revere, Friends, 5.50; Roxbury, Mrs. E. C. Ewing, 5, Eliot Ch., Aux., 57; South Boston, Phillips Ch., Aux., 29.87, Y. L. Aux., 25; Somerville, Highland Cong. Ch., Aux., 10, Cradle Roll, 6, Winter Hill Cong. Ch., Cradle Roll, 9.05; Walpole, Mrs. Way, 20; West Newton, Aux., 60; West Roxbury, South Evan. Ch., Aux., 18.25; Wrentham, Aux., 36, 1,615 73
- Worcester.*—Miss Lena Sheldon, 25 00
- Worcester Co. Branch.*—Mrs. Martha D. Tucker, Treas. Ashburnham, Aux., 10; Athol, Aux., 43.21; Charlton, Aux., 11.50; Clinton, Aux., 142.50; Dudley, Aux., 13.50; East Douglas, Aux., 36 25; Fisherville, Aux., 24.41; Gardner, Aux., 83; Grafton, Aux. (const. L. M's Mrs. Edward P. Usher, Mrs. Clarence E. Eliot, 50; Holden, Aux., 12; Hubbardston, Aux., 25; Lancaster, Aux., 23.25; Leicester, Aux., 133.17; Leominster, Aux., 100; Millbury, First Ch., Aux., 60, Second Ch., Aux., 85; Northbridge Cen-

tre, Aux., 23.12; North Brookfield, Aux., 78.10; Princeton, Aux., 77, Mountain Climbers, 9; Rutland, Aux., 10; Shrewsbury, Aux., 39, Jr. C. E. Soc., 1; Southbridge, Aux., 2.15; Spencer, Aux., 27.90, Cradle Roll, 2, Prim. Dept., S. S., 20.10; Sutton, Aux., 10; Uxbridge, Aux., 15.50; Warren, Aux., 26; Webster, Aux., 31.18; Westboro, Aux., 56.47; Whitinsville, Aux., 10; Winchendon, M. B., 3.50; Worcester, Adams Sq. Ch., Aux., 7; Greendale, Prim. Dept., 5, Immanuel Ch., Aux. (65 cts. Cradle Roll), 5.50, Park Ch., Aux., 1.76, E. C. D. Band, 5.30, Piedmont Ch., Aux., 350, M. B., 10.38, Plymouth Ch., Aux., 12, Union Ch., Aux., 40, Heralds of the King, 2.25,

1,734 00

Total, 10,214 48

LEGACIES.

North Adams.—Legacy of Ann Eliza Babbitt, final payment, Frank A. Smith, Admin., 183 34

Worcester.—Legacy of Albert Curtis (of which \$8,000 transferred from Albert Curtis Fund), 8,020 00

Worcester.—Legacy of Lois R. Hastings, final payment, M. C. Goodnow, George Richardson, Exrs., 75 00

RHODE ISLAND.

Rhode Island Branch.—Mrs. Clara J. Barnefield, Treas. Barrington, Aux., 39.74, Cradle Roll, 2; Bristol, C. E. Soc., 15; Central Falls, Cradle Roll, 5; East Providence, United Ch., Aux., 11; East Providence and Seekonk, Aux., 45; Kingston, Aux., 34.39; Knightsville, C. E. Soc., 1; Little Compton, Aux., 9; Pawtucket, Park Pl. Ch., Aux. (25 const. L. M. Mrs. Jessie Dickson Bishop), 80, Dau. of Cov., 20.73, Prim. Dept., S. S., 2.50, Pawtucket Ch., Aux. (50 const. L. M.'s Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Mary McIntire Hervey), 323.42, Y. L. M. C., 125, Happy Workers (const. L. M. Miss Sylvia Tower Bullock), 25, S. S., 26.58, Cradle Roll, 7.50; Peace Dale, Aux., 114.85; Providence, Beneficent Ch., Ben. Dau., 20, Central Ch., Aux., 322.60, Cradle Roll, 5.75; Wilkinson M. C. 50, Miss Helen S. Lathrop, 300, Mrs. Lydia A. Salisbury, 10, North Ch., Aux., 33.41, S. S., 15, Plymouth Ch., Aux., 30, Union Ch., Aux. and Cradle Roll, 258.16, Union M. B., 21; Tiverton, Aux., 6; Woonsocket, Globe Ch., Ladies' Union, 35; Westerly, Y. F. M. C., 15,

2,009 63

Total, 2,009 63

CONNECTICUT.

A Friend, 15 00

Eastern Conn. Branch.—Miss Mary I. Lockwood, Treas. Groton, S. S., 9.44; Lisbon, Aux., 30; A Friend in Mohegan, 25 cts.; New London, First Ch., Aux., 46.50, C. E. Soc., 9.14, Second Ch., Aux., 338; Norwich, Broadway Ch., Aux., 128.20, Park Ch., Aux., 56.24, W. E. B. Soc., 7; Pomfret, 12; Scotland, C. E. Soc., 1; Thompson, Aux., 3.50,

641 27

Hartford Branch.—Mrs. M. Bradford Scott, Treas. Bristol, Aux., 13.27, Dau. of Cov., 13, Jr. C. E. Soc., 5; Burlington,

Aux., 12; Collinsville, Aux., 58, Hearers and Doers M. C., 20, S. S., 5, Cradle Roll, 5.25; Columbia, Aux., 62; East Hartford, Aux., 31.25, Real Workers' M. C., 20; East Windsor, Aux., 28; Enfield, Aux., 2; Glastonbury, Y. L. M. B., 100, M. C., 25, Jr. C. E. Soc., 7; Granby, Aux., 36.70; Hartford, Asylum Hill Ch., Aux., Mrs. C. D. Davison, 25, Mrs. C. H. Smith, 25; Farmington Ave. Ch., Cradle Roll, 1, C. E. Soc., 65.50, Fourth Ch., Aux., 36.57, Dau. of Cov., 18, South Ch., Aux., 6; Wethersfield Ave. Ch., Aux., 25; Windsor Ave. Ch., M. C., 8.30; Kensington, Dau. of Cov., 4.50; New Britain, First Ch., Cradle Roll, 10.25, South Ch., Aux. (25 by Miss J. E. Case const. L. M. Mrs. Charles R. Barrows), 51.65, South Ch., Cradle Roll, 5.50, Jr. C. E. Soc., 9, Y. W. Ch. League, 20; Newington, Aux., 78.35, Y. W. F. M. Soc., 8.50; Plainville, Dau. of Cov., 7.50; Poquonock, Aux., 28, Cheerful Givers M. C., 31.16, Cradle Roll, 4.30, C. E. Soc., 8; Rockville, Aux., 50; Rocky Hill, Aux., 6; Simsbury, Aux., 29.65; Somers, Aux., 20; Southington, Aux., 36.19; South Coventry, Aux., 8.50; South Manchester, Aux. (75 const. L. M.'s Mrs. James Minnakin, Mrs. A. J. Spencer, Miss Elizabeth Griswold), 82; Stafford Springs, Aux. (25 const. L. M. Mrs. E. C. Dennis), 30.40; Suffield, Aux., 100, Ladies' F. M. Soc., 41.50; Talcottville, Aux., 93.42, Dau. of Cov., 30; Terryville, Aux., 42.24, Dau. of Cov., 5; Tolland, Aux., 43.66, Jr. C. E. Soc., 2.53; Unionville, Aux., 19; Vernon Centre (with prev. contri. const. L. M. Mrs. A. W. Post), 11; West Hartford, Cradle Roll, 2.50, M. C., 5; Wethersfield, Aux., 100.90; Windsor, Aux., 89.85, M. C., 5.15, Cradle Roll, 5; Windsor Locks, M. B., 30,

1,810 04

New Haven Branch.—Miss Julia Twining, Treas. Branford, Aux. (const. L. M. Mrs. Lizzie Rogers Vinal), 25; Bridgeport, First Ch., Aux., 35, Friends, 1.25, Black Rock S. S. Class, 1; Bridgewater, Aux., 23.50; Canaan, Pilgrim Ch., C. E. Soc., 15; Centrebrook, C. E. Soc., 15; Colebrook, S. F. I. V. H. L. (50 const. L. M.'s Miss Grace Allen, Miss Mabel Leonard), 58, C. E. Soc., 4; Cromwell, Cradle Roll, 16.20; Danbury, Second Ch., Cradle Roll, 16; East Canaan, Whatsoever Ten, 5; Fairport, Aux. (with prev. contri. const. L. M. Miss Mary T. Howard), Goshen, Jr. C. E. Soc., 5; Guilford, First Ch., Aux., 74.60; Haddam, Aux., 18; Milton, C. E. Soc., 10; Morris, C. E. Soc., 10; Naugatuck, Friends, extra gifts, 30; Nepaug, C. E. Soc., 5; Norfolk, Whatsoever, 5, C. E. Soc., 2; North Madison, Children's Band, 4.45; North Woodbury, C. E. Soc., 15, Prospect Gleaners, 25; Salisbury, Aux., 12.37; Sherman, Cradle Roll, 5.50; Southport, S. S., 30; Stamford, Aux., 25; Washington, Cradle Roll, 125; Winchester, C. E. Soc., 4.20, Two Friends, 200,

821 07

Total, 3,287 38

NEW YORK.

New York City.—Mrs. A. P. Stokes, 1,038 30
New York State Branch.—Mrs. F. M. Turner, Treas. Dudley, Memorial, 95;

Buffalo, First Ch., Aux., 25; East Bloomfield, Aux., 64 cts.; Gloversville, Aux., 18.25; Poughkeepsie, Vassar College, Ch. Asso., 500; Riverhead, Aux. (with prev. contri. const. L. M's Mrs. Byron Rogers, Mrs. George H. Skidmore), C. E. Soc., 25; Sherburne, Aux. (25 const. L. M.'s Mrs. Henry Lathrop), 31.17; Utica, Plymouth Ch., Aux., 10; Watertown, Jr. C. E. Soc., 15,	720 06
Total,	1,758 36

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH.

<i>Philadelphia Branch.</i> —Miss Emma Flavell, Treas. D. C., Washington, First Ch., Aux., 28.59, M. Club, 85, Mt. Pleasant Ch., Aux., 10, Cradle Roll, 10; N. J., Asbury Park, Aux., 3; Bound Brook, Aux., 29; Chatham, Stanley Ch., Aux., 12.10; East Orange, First Ch., Aux., 112, Twin-king Stars and Lydia Guild, 66; Jersey City, First Ch., Aux., 45, Prim. Dept., S. S., 9.17, Faithful Circle King's Dau., 5; Montclair, Y. W. M. S., 125, Cradle Roll, 13.05; Newark, First Ch., Aux., 15, Belleville Ave. Ch., M. B., 95; Nutley, Aux., 5; Orange Valley, Aux., 60.65, Y. L. M. B., 24.35; Passaic, Aux., 3.50; Paterson, Aux., 29.77, Prim. Dept., S. S., 1.32; Upper Montclair, Aux., 43; Westfield, The Covenanters, 32.25, Min. Children's League, 20, Cradle Roll, 8; Woodbridge, Aux., 15.03; Md., Baltimore, Asso. Ch., Aux., 16.60; Pa., Philadelphia, Central Ch., Aux., 111.23, Pearl Seekers, 40, Snow Flakes, 20, Dau. of Cov., 2; Steamburg and Conneaut Centre, Aux., 9.67; Va., Falls Ch., Aux., 40.50; Herndon, Aux., 10,	1,156 78
Total,	1,156 78

PENNSYLVANIA.

<i>Germantown.</i> —Mrs. Le Boutillier,	50 00
Total,	50 00

IOWA.

<i>Beaman.</i> —Mrs. W. M. Carver,	5 00
Total,	5 00

FLORIDA.

<i>Philips.</i> —Friends, 2; Tampa, Ladies' Miss. Soc., C. E. Soc. and Jr. C. E. Soc., 40; Waldo, L. Morton, 1; Ybor City Mission, M. B., 35 cts.,	43 35
Total	43 35

General Funds,	18,920 25
Gifts for Special Objects,	35 00
Variety Account,	77 12
Legacies,	8,478 34
Total,	\$27,510 71

RECEIPTS FOR ADJUSTMENT FUND, OCTOBER 18, 1900, TO OCTOBER 18, 1901.

A Friend,	200 00
A Friend,	150 00
Maine.—Portland, Mrs. William H. Fenn,	500 00
Vermont.—St. Johnsbury, Mrs. Horace Fairbanks,	500 00
Massachusetts.—A Friend, 2,000, A Friend, in memoriam, 1,000; Auburndale, Mrs. J. C. Means, 200; Boston, A Friend, 1, A Friend, 100, Mrs. Moses H. Day, 100, Mrs. George W. Coburn, 3,000, Mrs. J. N. Fiske, 500, Miss Elizabeth G. Houghton, 500, Mrs. A. H. Johnson, 50, Miss Annie Knight, 5, Miss Amelia De F. Lockwood, 500, Mrs. E. R. Penfield, 100, Mrs. Henry H. Proctor, 100, Mrs. R. H. Stearns, 500, Mrs. S. D. Warren, 500, Mrs. Frank Wood, 1,000, Mrs. Henry Woods, 1,000; Chicopee, Mrs. Ella M. Gaylord, 500; Dorchester, Mrs. William E. Murdock, 50; Essex South Branch, Friends, 280.25; Fall River, Mrs. Sarah S. Brayton, 1,000; Framingham, Mrs. E. H. Bigelow, 200; Holbrook, Miss Mary W. Holbrook, 250; Lee, Miss M. E. Gibbs, 300; Monson, Miss Esther R. Holmes, 100; Newton, Mrs. C. E. Billings, 50, Mrs. N. P. Coburn, 50, Miss Esther F. Wilder, 200; Roxbury, Mrs. A. C. Thompson, 1,000, Mr. W. H. Wellington, 500; South Hadley, Mrs. Helen M. Gulliver, 3; Wellesley, Mrs. Henry F. Durant, 100, Julia A. and Sarah P. Eastman, 500; West Springfield, Mrs. Ethan Brooks, 25; Whitinsville, Miss A. L. Whitin, 500; Winchester, Mrs. Lucy A. Maynard, 20,	16,784 25
Rhode Island.—Providence, Mrs. Harriet N. Lathrop, 1,000, Miss E. G. King, 100, Mrs. Sarah L. Danielson, 100,	1,200 00
Connecticut.—E. S. G., 200; Bristol, Friends, 35; Hartford, Mrs. F. B. Cooley, 100, Mrs. C. D. Davidson, 100, Miss Clara E. Hillyer, 1,000, Mrs. Edward W. Hooker, 200, Mrs. Charles A. Jewell, 100, Mrs. Edward A. Smith, 100, Mrs. C. H. Smith, 500; Manchester, Mrs. Dwight Spencer, 100; Naugatuck, A Friend, 100; New Haven, Mrs. H. J. Bennett, 1,000, Mrs. Farnum, 1,000, Mrs. Mary E. Scranton, 150; New London, Mrs. J. N. Harris, 3,000; Rockville, Mrs. Maxwell, 50, Mrs. S. H. Gibson, 50; Stafford Springs, Friends, 40; Talcottville, Mrs. S. A. Talcott, 25, Mrs. C. D. Talcott, 100; Waterbury, Friends, 400; Windsor Locks, Mrs. Coffin, 100,	8,450 00
New York.—Brooklyn, Mrs. Byron Clarke, 50, Mrs. Crowell, 100, Mrs. Allan Bourn, 50,	200 00
New Jersey.—Montclair, Mrs. M. E. Wilde, 500; Westfield, Mrs. A. S. Clark, 100,	600 00
Total,	\$28,584 25
Interest,	424 15
	\$29,008 40

TOTAL FROM OCTOBER 18, 1900, TO
OCTOBER 18, 1901.

Contributions, \$107,246.78; Lega- cies, \$50,124.43; Adjustment Fund, \$29,008.40,	\$186,379 61
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President.

MRS. A. P. PECK,
Oakland, Cal.

Treasurer.

Mrs. S. M. DODGE,
1275 Sixth Ave., Oakland, Cal.

Home Secretaries.

MRS. C. B. BRADLEY,
2639 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, Cal.

MRS. W. J. WILCOX,
576 East 14th Street, Oakland, Cal.

Treasurer Young Ladies' Branch.

Miss GRACE GOODHUE, 1722 Geary Street, San Francisco, Cal.

· ANNUAL REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY.

FOR twenty-eight years we have met to celebrate our anniversary. Our TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING was held September 5, 1900, in the First Church, San Francisco, and presided over by Mrs. Jewett, who, after ten years of conscientious and faithful labor in guiding the affairs of our Board, felt obliged to resign the office of President. While acknowledging her need of rest, the Board felt that her extensive knowledge of the Branches could not be spared, and appointed her Branch Secretary. In the place of President Mrs. A. P. Peck was elected, well fitted by years of foreign service to lead us on.

There were present at this meeting Dr. and Mrs. Price, who were soon to sail for the new mission in Guam; Miss Denton of Japan, who has been up to the present time helping by her presence and words in the East as well as the West; and Dr. Peck of China.

On Tuesday, September 4th, our delegates' meeting was held, about fifty ladies listening to reports from auxiliaries and Branches. Roll call was

answered partially by delegate or letter; since the account of work performed and the manner of doing it is always entertaining, it would be well if one could hear from each society.

This meeting was memorable to our Treasurer, and so to every one, because our appropriations were entirely raised, also several hundred dollars of extra gifts for objects not belonging especially to us. There is a constant tendency to give money to places, schools and people not supported by our Board. While we must not be less generous, yet it is necessary that our obligations should be met; these are the missionaries and schools set apart by the American Board as our special work.

The December quarterly meeting was held in Pilgrim Church, East Oakland. Dr. Peck bade us farewell, and called this his home, since here he left his family. He hardly knew what he would find in China, for nearly everything was destroyed; he urged the churches of America to give liberal help to the Christian Chinese. The next day he sailed.

Mrs. L. R. Scudder, of the Arcot Mission, India, spoke in an interesting way of her work, showing how hard it is to reduce expenses. Miss Agar, of Alameda, told of her desire to be a missionary.

Our MARCH MEETING, at Plymouth Church, San Francisco, was remarkable from the presence of Miss Fay, our President from November, 1882, till 1890, who brought greetings from the Boston Board. Mrs. Willey, in whose parlors in Santa Cruz was held the initial meeting of the Board, was also present. Dr. Atwood, of the Shansi Mission, spoke. Miss Case, of Osaka, Japan, told of three Bible women who had aided her; and Mr. Gardner, of Foochow, China, told of two Chinese Bible women.

The NEXT MEETING, which belonged in June, was held in MAY, owing to the increased number who go to the country for the vacations. It was held in Berkeley. We greeted with great pleasure Miss Barker, just returned from seven years in India. Rev. Mr. Hatch gave an interesting address, and a gentleman, Mr. Kawaye, of Tokyo, Japan, showed us the need of a Christian newspaper in that city.

The Executive Committee have had eleven meetings; much correspondence between this Board and the secretaries of the American Board is read and discussed; the appropriations are carefully weighed and finally adopted. The cradle roll has been begun in conjunction with the Home Missionary Union.

Our Twentieth Century Fund, begun in June, 1900, has not reached the desired total of \$2,000. About three quarters have been raised, the Southern California Branch sending one quarter and the First Church, Oakland, one quarter.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY W. B. M. P.

WE are fortunate in having with us to-day representatives from India and from Japan, who will report the successes, the difficulties, the needs and the hopes of their respective fields of labor. For the other portions of the Master's vineyard, for which we, as a Board, furnish working material, I feel impressed to lay before you some pressing needs.

The mission in South Africa, at this distance and at this time, seems very much like a fair garden that withers and droops and suffers for want of rain. The Ireland Home is closed, and Jubilee Hall was in a fair way to be closed also. The estimates made by the missionaries, after being^o put at the lowest figures possible with existence, were still further cut when the appropriations were made, and only for the fact that more students than usual were able to pay something toward their tuition, this, too, would have been open only for a few weeks. As it is, the term is much shortened. The working force is smaller than it was in 1890, when Mr. and Mrs. Dorward went there. And those who are left are often overworked. The war has not affected the mission at Natal, but it has stopped everything in the Transvaal.

Mr. Dorward says: "There is in Natal at present some agitation against missionaries, especially with respect to reservations held in trust by missionaries for the natives. The colonists now want these lands, and would like to move us and the natives off them. Consequently they have a good deal to say about us that is neither true nor flattering. They are dealing severely with the natives and restricting their liberty to a large degree. It is hard to foresee just what the immediate future of South Africa will bring forth. Dr. McCord, who went to Natal about a year and a half ago to do medical work, has been unable to practice because of a law that only physicians holding English diplomas can practice; and yet, strange to say, this same Natal government will grant to an ignorant native heathen, for the sum of three pounds ten shillings (\$17.50), a license to practice among his people—the same class to which Dr. McCord would limit his practice. Consistent, truly."

From Broosa comes the glad news that a teacher has at last been secured for them. Miss Holt was to sail from America July 31st. We can scarcely understand what this means to those who have so long looked and prayed for a helper. The school is in a most encouraging condition. At the close of the school year there were, including both the kindergarten and the main school, one hundred pupils, fourteen of whom were boarders. This is the highest number reached. Six graduated from the kindergarten, and the little tots were as happy and proud of their pink diplomas as were the three who

graduated so honorably from the main school. All of these three began with our school at A, B, C, and have never attended any other, with a brief exception in the case of one of them. The class motto was "Aim high," and just before they took their diplomas Mrs. Baldwin, the mother of them all, pinned on each of their dresses a silver pin with the class motto engraved on it. In describing the graduating exercises Mrs. Baldwin says: "Our hearts were so full of thankfulness and praise that nothing could be a more fitting close than to sing the doxology by all standing. One of these girls united with the church at the June communion, and the others seem almost ready to take this decisive step. An urgent need of this mission is room. It is penned in between Mohammedans and Romanists on three sides, with a possible outlet only on the remaining side. This property is for sale. The eyes of our missionary friends look longingly upon it. The eyes of the Catholics are on it also. One of them will secure it. If our mission is to live and grow it must secure this opportunity."

And now a few words for our dear Miss Denton, who is so soon to return to her life work. They need sorely at Kyoto a new building for class purposes, and to have the old buildings put in respectable condition. One thousand dollars will do this. She needs two lady teachers for her school. One should be well qualified in music. She has visited during her stay in America various colleges, but has failed to find those properly qualified who were willing to go. She needs a piano or an organ, and would like to take it back with her. Is it not possible that some church or individual has a secondhand one to give? Another need is a communion set for the church in Tokyo. A secondhand one would be most acceptable. Cannot some church that is introducing individual cups send their old set to Miss Denton? Surely, some of these needs could easily be met if they were known and understood by those who have the wherewithal to supply them. Miss Denton asks nothing for herself, but it is for her school and for the Christians of Japan that she pleads. She has given herself, her life, her all, to the work.

She has given up friends and family and country, and it is little enough that her wants should be supplied. One thought more. The supply for these needs must come from private sources. The American Board is too straitened to consider them. Hence it will depend on some individual church or some private missionary lover to make glad the heart of Miss Denton, and send her on her way rejoicing.

SUSAN MERRILL FARNAM.

September 4, 1901.



President.

MRS. MOSES SMITH,
115 S. Leavitt Street, Chicago, Ill.

Recording Secretary.

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Treasurer.

MRS. S. E. HURLBUT,
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Assistant Treasurer.

MRS. E. M. WILLIAMS,
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Editor of "Mission Studies."

MISS SARAH POLLOCK, Room 603, 59 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

Chairman of Committee on "Life and Light."

MRS. G. F. S. SAVAGE, 628 Washington B'd, Chicago, Ill.

REPORT OF THE OBERLIN MEETING.

OBERLIN was the scene of the thirty-third annual meeting of the W. B. M. I., held October 29-31. It is a college town dear to the thoughts of many a household in this country and to many homes in foreign lands. As mothers stepped from the trains and were greeted by their sons or daughters, and alumnæ met again on the campus, there was a spirit of joy in the air, akin to that which pervaded all the meetings. Each day there were large audiences; even the children's meeting had a crowded attendance. The special interest centered around the missionaries and the magnitude of their work; everywhere the day of small things is past, and God's kingdom is advancing. The report of the Treasurer showed that the total receipts this year were \$76,162.25; it had been hoped that \$80,000 could be raised

to meet the pressing needs, but it was a relief to learn by the report of the Home Secretary that the Board is not in debt. This is because the Executive Committee sent warnings that new work must wait. When all have learned to discriminate "values in life," as Mrs. McClelland defined them, the King's messengers need never wait.

Mrs. Davis, whose husband was killed at the Shansi Mission, gave two vivid pictures of the opium curse among the women in China and the suicides of the young girls. "It is love's power that can redeem the world," said Mrs. Williams, whose husband was also martyred at Shansi, "for God is love." Miss Luella Miner told of the heroism at the siege of Peking, and of those she had known and loved who had stood without fear before men made horrible by the thirst for blood. It is inevitable that Chinese women will come out from their secluded lives to appear with unbound feet and eager brains to take their place in the world. But dangers await them unless they come forth in the strength of Christ's presence. Commercial enterprises have considered it worth while to replace railroads and telegraphs in China, but only two new chapels have been built. If it is necessary to re-establish commerce, is it not of equal importance that missions be replaced?

"Women in India," was the subject of Dr. Jones's address. A revolution is taking place in that country in regard to the idea of women. The government is trying to stop the infanticide of girls, has prohibited the burning of widows, and legislated in regard to their remarriage. There are twenty-two million child widows in India, fourteen thousand of whom are under four years of age; none were allowed to marry. The educated Hindu woman, although still trammelled, has proved how justifiable is the work for her, and that she will be the power for Christ in her land. The evangelistic work in Kobe College was presented by its principal, Miss Searle. That is a college where nine tenths of its graduates are professing Christians, yet few of the students when they enter know anything of Christianity or the doctrines of any religions; it stands among those progressive Japanese for the truth that pure lives are better than clever minds. Miss Chambers and Miss Hess told of the Turkish missions where the seeds of the gospel, sown before the massacres, have sprung up and the harvest is ready. A paper was read from Miss Isabel Trowbridge, of Constantinople, telling of the college settlement work there, which is similar to that work in this country, with this exception, it has no support from public opinion. The view of missions in West Central Africa was given by Miss Fay, who showed the contrast between the squalor of the native villages, and the Christian villages there with their cleanliness and peace.

Wednesday noon luncheon was served at Tank Missionary Home; that bright home where the missionary children may live while they attend school in the healthful environment of this country. On Thursday there were two speakers from Oberlin College. Miss Barrows gave a concise statement of work at mission stations from the three centers—the school, the home and the dispensary. Dr. Alice Luce, dean of the Woman's Department, showed that the college is the training place of character; responsibilities are enforced, interests are broadened, with the purpose that there will be something greater and more stirring in the future of the world and missions than has been felt in the past.

Mr. Robert Speer, secretary of the Presbyterian Board, gave a stirring address upon Missions in the New Century. Our difficulties are as nothing compared with those of a hundred years ago, now we have the proofs to show how the work pays. Every big enterprise costs in lives; this pays in souls. The non-Christian religions, which permit the holiest places to be the most vile, and have no honor for women nor hope for the future, are not adequate to meet the needs of the non-Christian worlds. Christianity is the only religion which has grown purer with the ages. There is a rigidity in our duty to spread the gospel, for time has proved that missions are worth while,—are necessary and are possible.

The vote was unanimous that ninety thousand dollars be the aim of this year for women's work by the women of the Interior. "It is the opposite of Christianity to accept the gospel for one's self and withhold it from others." "Each Christian woman must say, 'What is my part? What am I to do for Christ?'" There is an earnest hope that this year there will be an enthusiastic revival among the young ladies' societies. Their work was started twenty-one years ago at Oberlin, but lately it has been declining. Let the thrill of their interest be felt this year.

No one could attend these meetings without feeling that their inspiration lay in the value of the work. The large attendance, the cordial greeting of the church and the radiant faces of those present, showed that discouragement should be impossible.

MARGARET HYDE LYMAN.

RESOLUTIONS.

PREPARED BY MRS. S. J. HUMPHREY, AND APPROVED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN OBERLIN, OHIO, OCTOBER 30.

ON a dull winter morning in the fourth year of our missionary Board, almost thirty years ago, our small executive force met in the dim prayer room of the former building of Plymouth Church. "The fire," through whose wreckage we had picked our way, had robbed us of our annual meeting; many of us were homeless; our gathering place was migratory; the Presbyterian ladies had withdrawn, and our President's health was

failing. That was the "winter of our discontent." It was to me like a ray of sunshine when, as we were assembling, a newcomer from Davenport, Iowa, told me, as one who cared about it, that she had been separated for some time from missionary affairs and desired to learn of them again, and her questions were those of one "to the manner born." It was Mrs. J. B. Leake, daughter of an early Treasurer of the American Board, destined to be for nearly a quarter of a century our own Treasurer.

There must have been in that Boston home a conscientious training to fit the girl for every department and emergency of life. Who shall foresee when a child but learns to count, whether it is the initial of a business occupation among columns of weary figures, or of a physician's intense nerve strain in counting the pulse for the life of his patient? In this case it was both, for the numbering of the dollars was the counting of the heart-beats of the churches' vitality.

Now that our beloved Treasurer has retired from the arduous work of this office, we should do violence to our feelings if we did not place on record our appreciation of the patience, zeal, accuracy and loving devotion with which she has performed this unpaid service. I offer the following resolutions:—

We hereby express our gratitude to the God of missions for the twenty-nine years of official help given to our Board by the wife of Gen. J. B. Leake, during twenty-three years of which she has held the office of Treasurer.

We give thanks for the birth of Mary Porter Hill into the kingdom of this service; for her receiving from her mission-loving mother, Laura Porter, and her father, Henry Hill, for thirty-two years Treasurer of the American Board, a grand object lesson—the nobility of a life spent in gathering consecrated money and speeding it on for the world's redemption.

We give thanks for her coming to us when the heart of Chicago was a cinder; when our forces were diminished by the loss of our Presbyterian co-workers and by our President's failing health; for her completeness of equipment, social, literary, devotional, executive,—combined with a rare modesty,—whereby she was fitted to excel in any position as though she had made that department a specialty; and for the elasticity that could turn at any moment from the routine of figures to leading the devotional hour, or guiding the executive session, or promoting by social position and qualities the exalted purpose of her life.

We give thanks for the initial five years of vital touch with our missionaries as Corresponding Secretary: for the faithful and laborious handling, bit by bit, of more than one and one-quarter millions of dollars—that living money which was prayed for by the Board at home and by the missionaries abroad.

We give thanks, too, for the physical endurance whereby she was habitually assistant at the weekly sessions and at every one of the twenty-nine annual meetings, all the time tense like a bowstring between the strain here of money raising and the strain abroad of money expending, sustaining meanwhile the Treasurer's blessed entree into the heart secrets of the givers—often tender, holy secrets—and the heart burdens of the missionaries

who are searching for the Lord's blossoms in the jungle—his diamonds in the drift.

We are glad that in a less-arduous service she is still presiding over the deliberations of our Executive Committee, and thus continuing to us the benefit of her rich experience.

Upon motion of Mrs. C. D. Noble, of Ohio, these resolutions were adopted by a unanimous rising vote, and the following telegram sent to Mrs. Leake, 1 Thessalonians ix. 12, 13, to which Mrs. Leake responded, "Thank you; 1 Corinthians i. 3-7."

REPORT OF WOMAN'S WORK IN SALONICA STATION.

APRIL, 1900-JULY, 1901.

A peculiar interest now attaches to this report of Miss Stone's work for the last year, therefore we give it almost in its entirety. There is a pathetic touch in the opening lines, born of the anniversary so dear to all Americans. The love and pride of country and confidence in its principles of government are being strained to their utmost by the sad and terrible experiences through which she is now passing—when there seems to be so little which we, as a nation, have power to do for her relief. Surely our Father can, therefore will, make all this strange suffering to work for good and the advance of his kingdom. May our faith in his loving kindness lead us to constant prayer for her safe keeping and speedy deliverance.

It is the glorious Fourth of July! To what better use could the only American-born representative of our glorious republic who is probably to be found in this city on this anniversary of our nation's freedom devote its memory-laden hours than to a review of work done since our last annual meeting for the uplifting of home-life in Macedonia? Our nation's banner floats proudly from the flag-staff on the terrace. Smaller flags and fresh flowers decorate the rooms of the mission house, while with the national anthem in her heart and on her lips, one sister of this mission thanks God for all that this day means to her native land and because of her to all lands.

The interchange of our congratulations and lunch at our American vice-consul's will demand the middle of the day, but these fresh morning hours are devoted to a *Te Deum* for what God's almighty hand has wrought in so marvelously short a time for our own land, and to a backward glance at what progress he has permitted us to see in this land of the Turk.

A friend in New England wrote a few weeks ago, "In our monthly missionary meetings there is often a prayer that God will open many ways to you, and that you may not faint and grow weary." So abundantly has God granted this petition that we have been almost compelled to ask him to stay his hand, unless he will give us more consecrated souls to enter the doors which he has opened. In every place we have visited during the nearly one hundred and forty days of touring between the dates which we report, there has been the eager plea for a longer stay, that we might enter more homes. At last the walls of opposition, which for two years prevented us from reaching even one woman in Mitrovitsa, have fallen, and during our third yearly visit last spring we were rejoiced by invitations to five homes, and the opportunity to meet many women. To our few brethren there had been given a spirit of supplication for the women of their families, and although

it was not permitted to us to meet those women personally, yet our interviews with other women, friends of theirs, had due influence.

The news was fully expected, which quickly followed the touring sisters to Salonica, that Mary, the tailor's wife, had returned to him with two of their children, their only boy having died during the months while she had abandoned him and his home because he had become a Protestant. We expect to hear, too, of the return to his family of his apprentice, who is bearing his expulsion from his well-to-do father's house, in the same city, because he would not confess to the priest on the latter's occasional visits to their town, from Sophia. The reception of these two brethren to the little evangelical brotherhood of Prisdina greatly rejoiced their hearts, and made them pray even more earnestly for the unbelieving wife and parents. Now they rejoice with us as our tailor friend writes that his wife eagerly listens to his reading of the Bible at family prayers. Ah! his prayers and labors were not for naught when two of us sisters visited Mitrovitsa last March.

Although he waited in vain for his wife to invite us to see her, yet with "a heart at leisure from itself" he led the informal service of song and prayer in our room at the khan two evenings, with about a dozen attending each service.

Tetovo, some twenty-five miles from Sophia, seems to us so promising a place, that in the absence of a preacher to be sent in answer to their loud call, we were planning to send there Miss Todorova, as soon as she should recover her health after her hard winter as teacher and Bible woman, but she astonished us recently by the news of her marriage, and we are left to seek from God the worker whom he designs for Tetovo.

Miss Todorova gave long and faithful service as a Bible woman, both in our field and in that of the Philippopolis station, and will be a faithful laborer for Christ wherever she may be. The home which has won her as wife and mother is to be congratulated, and the community in which she lives. It was Miss Todorova who last midsummer went with a colporter to some villages in the Nevrokope region, and in consequence of the interest aroused in the priest's heart by her conversation with him, she was prevailed upon to address his flock in the Pravo-Slav church the following morning. She has been a fearless, consecrated worker.

Last autumn our beloved Mrs. Oosheva labored as Bible woman in two new villages. Varvaritza is a tiny hamlet of sixteen houses hidden away among the hills. Our one brother here returned to his home last Easter, after serving a term in the prison of the Seven Towers in Salonica, upon accusation of having fed brigands. His soul was filled with zeal for his neighbors and friends, and he gladly welcomed the Bible woman to his one-roomed house for a month, while she taught the women and children who came to her. Those were two happy evenings which two of us spent in Varvaritza and its neighboring village during corn husking last autumn. Under the glorious harvest moon we husked with the merry young folks, and sang gospel hymns to them. "Sing us another," they pleaded; "we never heard such songs before." The preacher and his companion sang for them "The Ninety and Nine" and "I will Sing of Jesus," while a hush fell upon the jolly crowd. The girls there were happy to recall the summer

days which Miss Koleva had spent with them, when she made their evenings happy with Christian song. The light shone steadily from this Christian home, until the political disturbances which sprang up early this year compelled our brother Vasil to flee over into free Bulgaria, lest he be thrown again into prison upon some suspicion. Kolesheno is another village in which Mrs. Kerefuka worked for the first time, and later in Doiran, where, after a season of earnest inquiry, an entire family came out on the Lord's side and called for a teacher.

Although the husband's work was at once cut off when he declared himself a Protestant, they shared their humble home with our Bible woman, and rejoiced to see their veranda filled with the women and children who constantly sought to listen to her. Even the ten-year-old daughter of the house had to bear her cross for Jesus, when her teacher refused to call her by name, but said scornfully, "Now we will hear what this Protestant will say." But the happy-faced maiden lifted her dark eyes bravely to tell us, "I'll bear this cross for Jesus, who bore so much for me." We have great hope for this place, beautifully situated upon the lake bearing the same name, that it will yet have an important part in the evangelization of Macedonia, perhaps as a resort for Christian workers at summer conferences, classes and the like. While we have rejoiced in the work in these new places, our hearts have asked for such another worker to go to waiting homes in other places. These open doors are so many, and so far exceed our present ability to enter them, that we call upon our friends to pray, as our Saviour himself enjoined, "the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

Another of our teachers was married at the close of the school year in Drama last spring. She has gone to Serres to strengthen, through her home, the little Greek community there. A few weeks earlier she had been preceded to Serres by another bride, also from Drama, who like herself had studied in the Monastir school. May these young Bulgarian Christians do a blessed work with their Greek husbands in that important center!

After the close of their respective schools in Todorak and Bansko in the early summer of last year, Miss Efremova married one of our Servian brethren of Prisdina, and Miss Gratinova went to Sophia as the wife of a graduate of the Collegiate and Theological Institute in Samokov. These young Christian homes are centers of blessed influences, and we rejoice to have them multiplied; but as the number of workers is thus depleted by four in one year, we can but regret the more that the Monastir school had no graduating class in June, and will have none next year. However, the girls who will be sent out after Miss Cole's return from America will be more mature, and more thoroughly prepared for the service which awaits them.

Schools were maintained last year for the first time in Drama, just referred to, and in Prisdina. It was a happy day last spring when their young teacher, a daughter of the leading Protestant Servian family there, marshaled her thirteen little Servian pupils in line, and led them out for their first walk as a school. Her father and other friends accompanied her, and

we went out to the Protestant cemetery on the hillside, where the children plucked wild flowers and decorated the grave of our noble friend, who last year was laid there, and of the little children who had preceded him to heaven. We have great joy in this first Servian evangelical school, and in the tactful, successful work of its young teacher. She graduated last summer from our Monastir school.

Prisdina is one of the places calling loudly for a preacher, and our hearts sadden as we think of a son of one of the leading evangelical families there, to whom our eyes have turned as the first Servian preacher, now far away in America.

Two of our older schools advanced their course last year. The school in Bansko added a third class, and had three full teachers and an assistant. Schools were continued as usual in the other stations, all the teachers being charged with the spiritual nurture of their pupils and their families, as well as with the mental development.

One teacher, who had been under a ban of disapproval for some years because of disloyalty in her previous position, was reinstated in work, and won the warm regard of those among whom she labored. We hope that an older teacher, who was associated with her in her disloyalty, and who also begs to be taken back into the service of the mission, will be equally successful.

May the spirit of God endue all teachers and Bible women, as well as other laborers for the evangelization of Macedonia, with wisdom and consecration of soul, to meet her need in this most critical period of her history!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the teachers and Bible women of Salonica station,

ELLEN M. STONE.

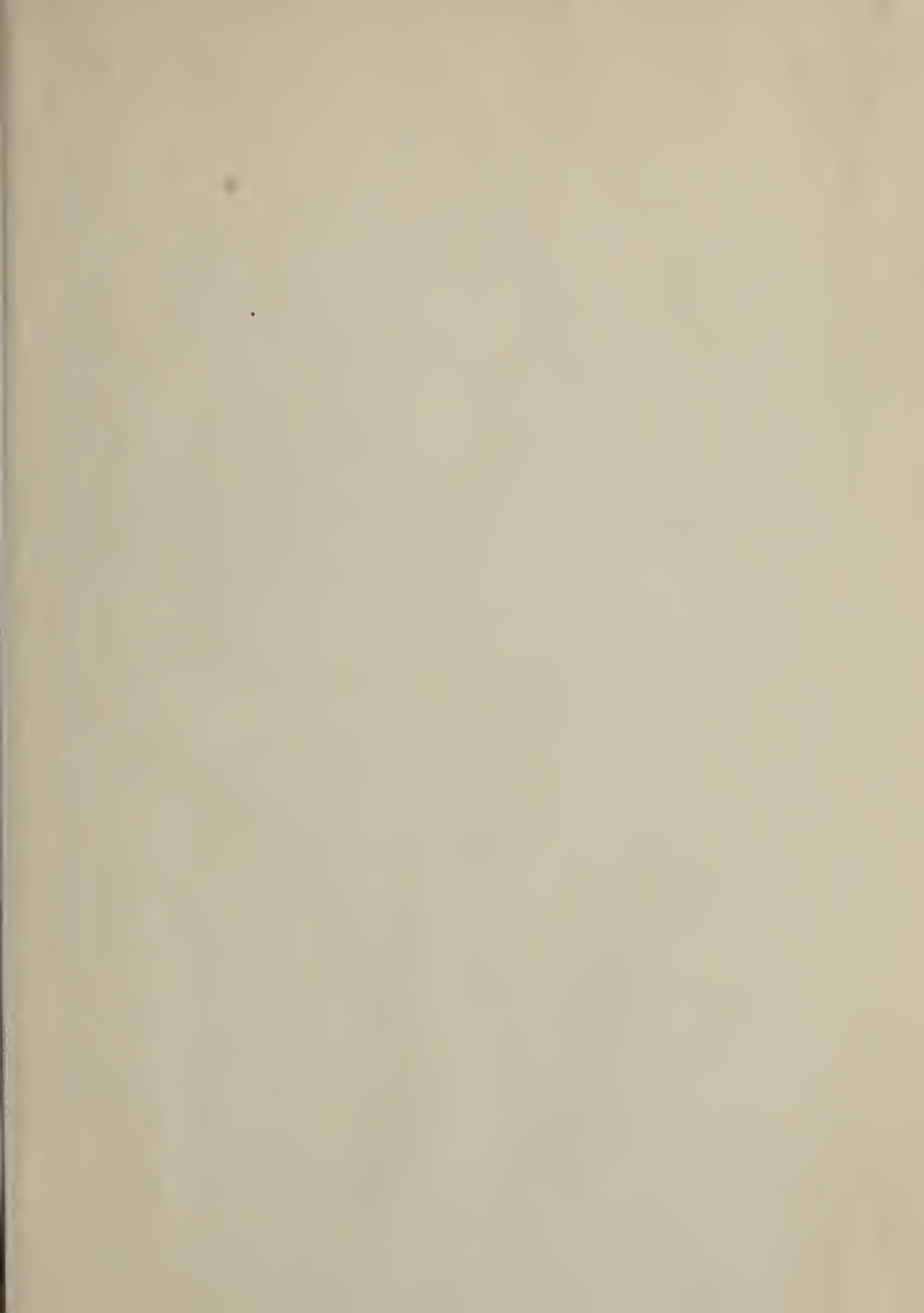
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Mrs. S. E. HURLBUT, TREASURER.

RECEIPTS FROM SEPTEMBER 10 TO OCTOBER 10, 1901.

COLORADO	478 22	TURKEY	10 00
ILLINOIS	5,163 97	MISCELLANEOUS	155 47
INDIANA	99 80		
IOWA	2,102 91	Receipts for the month	15,473 50
KANSAS	689 44	Previously acknowledged, less correction	44,323 64
MICHIGAN	746 66		
MINNESOTA	491 73	Total since October, 1900	\$59,797 14
MISSOURI	305 79		
MONTANA	30 90		
NEBRASKA	526 26		
NORTH DAKOTA	105 42		
OHIO	2,560 27	Received this month	435 60
OKLAHOMA	23 11	Already reported	2,687 99
SOUTH DAKOTA	214 00	Amount transferred from regular donations, by correction	8 18
WISCONSIN	1,469 46		
WYOMING	77 61	Total since October, 1900	\$3,131 77
AFRICA	25 00		
CALIFORNIA	26 00		
CHINA	25 00		
FLORIDA	5 00	ADDITIONAL DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL OBJECTS.	
GEORGIA	30 00	Received this month	52 71
JAPAN	7 00	Added by corrections	25 00
KENTUCKY	6 48	Already forwarded	1,052 63
MEXICO	5 00		
NEW YORK	100 00	Total since October, 1900	\$1,130 34

Mrs. E. M. WILLIAMS, Ass't Treas.



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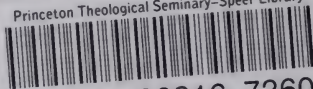
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